
Carer

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NCSDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000508 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT
Admin status: SUPERSEDED Effective date: 01-JUL-98
Definition: A carer is any person, such as a family member, friend or neighbour, who is giving regular, ongoing assistance to another person without payment other than a pension or benefit. The definition excludes formal care services such as Homecare, care provided by volunteers or foster care that is arranged by formal services. Where a potential carer is not prepared to undertake the caring role, the coding carer not available should be used.
Context: Informal care and support networks play a critical role in community services provision, especially in caring for frail aged and younger people with disabilities within the community. Information about carers is therefore of fundamental importance in assessing the ongoing needs of clients and their carers, and in service planning. The presence of a carer is often a key indicator of a persons ability to remain at home, especially if the person requires assistance. The absence of a carer, where a vulnerable client lives alone, is an indicator of client risk. Information on client living arrangements and carer availability provides an indicator of the potential in-home support and the extent to which the burden of care is absorbed by the informal caring system. The stability or otherwise of the carers availability may be significant in the capacity of the client continuing to remain at home. Operational implementation of carer data items in community services data collections such as the HACC Minimum Data Set development (in progress), necessarily confronts a number of conceptual challenges including the measurement of availability and its periodicity, purpose, etc. Existing carer definitions (e.g. for purposes of establishing eligibility for Domiciliary Nursing Care Benefits (DNCB) or Carers pension, definitions used in ABS population, surveys of disability, ageing and carers) vary in context and purpose.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype:

Administrative Attributes

Source Document: HACC Minimum Data Set Project/ABS Surveys of Disability,
Ageing and Carers

Source Organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comments: Was ID. 000008 (500 added to avoid NHDD DE with same ID.).

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
