
Date of referral to community nursing service

Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au>

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000041 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 30-JUN-98

Definition: The date on which a client referral is received by the community nursing service.

Context: Community nursing: many services collect the date of referral because it has some administrative importance. A good reason for its definition within the Community Nursing Services Minimum Data Set - Australia is to ensure it is not confused with, or provided instead of, other dates of importance.

Variations in the elapsed time between this data element and the data element Date of first visit across geographic areas, client groups and time, may be of increasing significance to providers, funding bodies and purchasers of community nursing services.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: DATE
Representation layout: DDMMCCYY
Minimum Size: 8
Maximum Size: 8
Data Domain: NOVAL Valid dates

Guide For Use: The date on which a referral to the community nursing service is made could be some time prior to the date on which services actually commence, or it could be the same day. The times will differ across different client groups, service providers and areas. It is legitimate to provide the same date for different events (items).
The source of referral (see Community Nursing Services Minimum Data Set - Australia, Item S-8) should always be

recorded with this date.

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: Community Nursing Services Minimum Data Set - Australia,
Steering Committee

Comments: This data item has recommended status only, which means there is currently no other function for it (such as calculation of a time period) and no requirement to supply it for any Community Nursing Services Minimum Data Set - Australia collection. Nevertheless, service agencies commonly collect and store this information for administrative purposes. Further developments in the casemix area may also mean community nursing services will need more detailed description of the interface between hospitals and the community. This date marks a critical point in that interface.

There would be some danger in assuming that the data element Date of referral to community nursing service was the date on which admission to a community nursing service was required. Sometimes there may be several weeks warning of a planned discharge from hospital. Within a service agency, it would therefore be prudent to establish mechanisms to monitor actual waiting time and waiting lists, in addition to the more indicative information such as dates.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM Request for / entry into service event

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
