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# Record Linkage

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**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: NCSDD  
Knowledgebase ID: 000532                      Version number: 1  
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT  
Admin status: SUPERSEDED                      Effective date: 01-JUL-98  
Definition: A process, technique or method that enables the bringing together of two or more records that are believed to belong to the same individual. Linkage can occur across data systems or within data systems and may be done by using a range of identifiers.  
Context: Record linkage for the same individual facilitates service provision or treatment, case management or administrative items relating to individual clients; or for statistical purposes, including planning, research or the measurement of service or program outcomes, record linkage facilitates separating multiple items clustered around individuals from total counts.

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype:

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## *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document: HACC Minimum Data Set Project. Linkage Key: Issues Paper  
Source Organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Comments: The proposed use of a linkage key in the HACC minimum data set is intended to make it possible to count the number of HACC clients (without counting clients more than once) and the services which they receive. In a separate project, AIHW has been asked to examine broader issues surrounding the linkage of client records across health and community services sectors that are relevant to establishing a common unit record system for post-acute care.

Was ID. 000032 (500 added to avoid NHDD DE with same ID.).

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## *Data Element Links*

*Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

*Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

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