
Medicare eligibility status

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: 000414 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 01-MAR-05
Definition: The patient's eligibility for Medicare as specified under the Commonwealth Health Insurance Act 1973.
Context: Admitted patient care:
To facilitate analyses of hospital utilisation and policy relating to health care financing.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: N
Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size: 1
Data Domain: 1 Eligible
2 Not eligible
9 Not stated/unknown

Guide For Use: An eligible person includes a person who resides in Australia and is one of the following:

- an Australian citizen
- a permanent resident
- a New Zealand citizen
- a temporary resident who has applied for permanent residency and who has either an authority to work in Australia or an immediate family member who is an Australian citizen or permanent resident
- a person, or class of persons, who has been declared eligible for Medicare for the purposes of the Health Insurance Act 1973.

Other persons, as temporary residents, who are fully eligible for Medicare include:

- a person who is a head or member of a diplomatic mission or consular post or is a member of such a person's family, where there is a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement in place between Australia and the country they represent (currently United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands, Malta, Italy, Sweden and Finland) - with the exception of New Zealand diplomats.

Other persons, as visitors or temporary residents, who are eligible for Medicare, in certain circumstances, include:

- persons who are visiting Australia and are eligible persons because there is a Reciprocal Health Care Agreement in place between Australia and their usual country of residence (currently United Kingdom, Republic of Ireland, the Netherlands, Malta (eligibility limited to 6 months), Italy (eligibility limited to 6 months), Sweden, Finland and New Zealand - it should be noted that the RHCA with New Zealand and the Republic of Ireland limits the access to medical services for their residents to that of public patients in public hospitals) - with the exception of New Zealand diplomats.

With respect to hospital services, persons covered by an RHCA (except RHCA diplomats as they have full Medicare eligibility) are eligible only as public patients in a public hospital and are ineligible persons if they are admitted as a private patient in either a public or a private hospital;

It should also be noted that some patients can be both an 'eligible person' and either personally or a third party liable for the payment of charges for hospital services received; for example:

- prisoners
- patients with Defence Force personnel entitlements
- compensable patients
- Department of Veterans' Affairs beneficiaries
- Nursing Home Type Patients.

Newborn babies take the eligibility status of the mother.

Collection Methods: Commencing with Version 9.0 of the Dictionary, three separate data elements are recorded in the Dictionary:

- Admitted patient election status
- Medicare eligibility status
- Compensable status.

This is because each element relates to a separate concept and requires separate information to be reported. These three data elements replace the previous data elements Patient accommodation eligibility status and Compensable status.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Patient accommodation eligibility status version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation:

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM Insurance / benefit characteristic

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

NMDS - Admitted patient care From 01-Jul-00 to
