
Type of episode of care

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Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000168 Version number: 3
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 30-JUN-00
Definition:
Comments: Newborn episode: It should be noted that unqualified newborn days (and separations consisting entirely of unqualified newborn days are not to be counted under the Australian Health Care Agreements and that they are ineligible for health insurance benefit purposes.

During 1996 an NHDC Working Party considered the differing admission practices between States/Territories relating to qualified/unqualified babies. The major finding was that while, all States/Territories based their qualified/unqualified distinction on NHDD Version 5.0 definitions and the Commonwealth Circular HBF456, there was a significant difference in the implementation of P21 Type of episodes of care in regard to unqualified newborns. It is recommended that users of data contact individual State/Territory Health Authorities for advice on implementation of newborn episodes of care in that jurisdiction. The changes to this data element and the development of a method of capture of qualified/unqualified days will enable the implementation and reporting of a single episode of newborn care.

At its meeting in November 1996, the National Health Information Management Group requested that a single episode approach for newborn hospital stays be incorporated into the NHDD. This would facilitate differentiation between healthy and sick babies on the basis of clinical criteria as opposed to whether they were cared for in neonatal intensive care.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM Service provision event

An episode of care is a phase of treatment. It is described by one of the following types of care:

- An episode of acute care for an admitted patient is one in which the principal clinical intent is one or more of the following:
 - to manage labour (obstetric);
 - to cure illness or provide definitive treatment of injury;
 - to perform surgery;
 - to relieve symptoms of illness or injury (excluding palliative care);
 - to reduce severity of an illness or injury;
 - to protect against exacerbation and/or complication of an illness and/or injury which could threaten life or normal function; and/or
 - to perform diagnostic or therapeutic procedures.

An episode of rehabilitation care occurs when a person with a disability is participating in a multidisciplinary program aimed at an improvement in functional capacity, retraining in lost skills and/or change in psychosocial adaptation.

An episode of palliative care occurs when a person's condition has progressed beyond the stage where curative treatment is effective and attainable or, where the person chooses not to pursue curative treatment. Palliation provides relief of suffering and enhancement of quality of life for such a person. Interventions such as radiotherapy, chemotherapy, and surgery are considered part of the palliative episode if they are undertaken specifically to provide symptomatic relief.

An episode of non-acute care includes care provided to persons who:

- are Nursing Home Type Patients (NHTPs), i.e. when a patient has been in hospital (public and private) for a continuous period exceeding 35 days and does not have a current acute care certificate issued under s.3B of the Health Insurance Act 1973 (Cwlth) or, alternatively, an order made under s.3A of that Act which determines that the patient is in need of acute care for a specified period;
- are not NHTPs or would normally not require hospital treatment but where there are factors in the home environment (physical, social, psychological) which make it inappropriate for the person to be discharged in the short term. This includes patients who are not eligible under current legislation to become NHTPs (compensable and ineligible patients) and have been in one or more hospitals for a continuous period of more than 35 days with a maximum break of seven days, who would otherwise be deemed to be NHTPs;

- are not NHTPs but are in receipt of respite care where the sole reason for admitting the person to hospital is that the care that is usually provided in another environment, e.g. at home, in a nursing home, by a relative or with a guardian, is unavailable in the short term;

- are treated in psychiatric units who have a stable but severe level of functional impairment and inability to function independently without extensive care and support and for whom the principal function is provision of care over an indefinite period.

A newborn episode of care is initiated when the patient is nine days old or less at the time of admission and continues until the care type changes or the patient is separated:

- those newborns who turn 10 days of age and require clinical care remain as newborn until separated;

- those newborns who turn 10 days of age, not requiring clinical care are separated and become boarders;

- newborns not admitted at birth (eg transferred from another hospital) aged less than 10 days will be admitted as a newborn;

- babies not previously admitted (eg transferred from another hospital) aged greater than 9 days are either boarders or admitted with an acute care type;

- within a newborn episode, until the baby turns 10 days of age, each day is deemed to be either a qualified or unqualified day. A newborn is qualified when it meets at least one of the following:

- is the second or subsequent live born infant of a multiple birth, whose mother is currently an admitted patient;

- is admitted to an intensive care facility in a hospital, being a facility approved by the Commonwealth Minister for the purpose of the provision of special care;

- is admitted to, or remains in hospital without its mother.

- If a newborn episode continues after the baby turns 10 days of age (requires clinical care) each day is counted as an acute day.

NB. newborn qualified days are equivalent to acute days and for practical purposes may be denoted as such.

An other episode of care is one where the principal clinical intent does not meet the criteria for any of the above

Context: Institutional health care: the identification of different episodes of care is required in order to appropriately classify and count the care a person received whilst in hospital. The type of care received will determine the appropriate casemix classification that shall be employed to classify the episode.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational form: CODE

Representation layout: N.N

Minimum Size: 3

Maximum Size: 3

Data Domain:	1.0	Acute care
	2.1	Rehabilitation care delivered in a designated unit
	2.2	Rehabilitation care according to a designated program
	2.3	Rehabilitation care principal clinical intent
	3.1	Palliative care delivered in a designated unit
	3.2	Palliative care according to a designated program
	3.3	Palliative care principal clinical intent
	4.0	Non-acute care
	5.0	Newborn
	6.0	Other care

Guide For Use: An episode of care refers to the phase of treatment rather than to each individual patient day. There may be more than one episode of care within the one overnight stay period.

An episode of care begins on the date the person meets criteria defined above for a particular type of care; this may be the same as the date the person was admitted to hospital or a date during the hospital stay. An episode of care ends when the principal clinical intent of the care changes or when the patient is formally separated from the hospital.

A rehabilitation episode includes care provided:

- in a designated rehabilitation unit;
- in a designated rehabilitation program, or in a psychiatric rehabilitation program as designated by the state health authority for Medicare patients in a recognised hospital, for private patients in a public or private hospital as approved by a registered health benefits organisation; or
- under the principal clinical management of a rehabilitation physician, or in the opinion of the treating doctor the principal clinical intent of care is rehabilitation.

A palliative episode of care includes care provided:

- in a palliative care unit;
- in a designated palliative care program; or
- under the principal clinical management of a palliative care physician or in the opinion of the treating doctor the principal clinical intent of care is palliation.

Coding for rehabilitation/palliative care should be carried out in strict numerical sequence and only the first appropriate category should be coded; i.e. when a patient under the clinical management of a rehabilitation/palliative care physician is receiving care in a designated program, the episode should be coded to the option that is highest in the hierarchy (designated program).

Persons with mental illness may fall into any one of the care types (except newborn); classification depends on the principal clinical intent of the care received.

The Nursing Home Type Patient criteria apply to all admitted patients regardless of the type of episode of care the patient is receiving. Once a patient meets these criteria they should be classified as a Nursing Home Type Patient.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Type of episode of care version 2
is used in conjunction with Date of change to qualification status version 1
is used in conjunction with Qualification status version 1
is used in conjunction with Number of acute (qualified)/unqualified days for newborns version 1
has been superseded by Care type version 4

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

NMDS - Admitted patient care	From 01-Jul-98 to 30-Jun-00
NMDS - Admitted patient mental health care	From 01-Jul-98 to 30-Jun-00
