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# Length of stay

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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: NHDD  
Knowledgebase ID: 000119                      Version number: 1  
Metadata type: DERIVED DATA ELEMENT  
Registration Authority: NHIMG                      Admin status: SUPERSEDED  
   Effective date: 30-JUN-00

Definition: Hospital  
The length of stay of a patient is calculated by subtracting the date the patient is admitted from the date of separation. All leave days, including the day the patient went on leave, are excluded from the calculation. A same-day patient should be allocated a length of stay of one day.

Length of stay - antenatal  
To calculate antenatal length of stay, subtract the date the mother is admitted from the date of delivery. All leave days, including the day the mother went on leave, are excluded from the calculation.

Length of stay - postnatal  
To calculate postnatal length of stay, subtract the date the mother is separated from the date of delivery. All leave days, including the day the mother went on leave, are excluded from the calculation.

Context: Institutional health care

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype: Numeric  
Representational form: QUANTITATIVE VALUE  
Representation layout: NNN  
Minimum Size: 1  
Maximum Size: 3  
Data Domain: NOVAL              Count number of days  
Related metadata: is derived from Number of leave periods version 3  
   is calculated using Separation date version 5

is calculated using Admission date version 4  
has been superseded by Length of stay version 2

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### *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee

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Comments: This data element was previously included in the Terminology section of the dictionary.

While a similar concept of duration of service applies in other institutional care settings, and similar measurement principles apply, different terminology is used in those other settings to describe the duration of care.

### *Data Element Links*

#### *Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

NHIM Performance indicator

#### *Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

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