Patient days

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000206   Version number: 3

Metadata type: DERIVED DATA ELEMENT

Registration Authority: NHIMG   Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: The number of patient days is the total number of days for all patients who were admitted for an episode of care and who separated during a specified reference period.

Context: Admitted patient care:
Needed as the basic count of the number of services provided by an establishment.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric

Representational form: QUANTITATIVE VALUE

Representation layout: NNNNNNNN

Minimum Size: 1

Maximum Size: 8

Data Domain: NOVAL   Count patient days for the period

Guide For Use: A day is measured from midnight to 2359 hours.

The following basic rules are used to calculate the number of patient days for overnight stay patients:
- The day the patient is admitted is a patient day
- If the patient remains in hospital from midnight to 2359 hours count as a patient day
- The day a patient goes on leave is counted as a leave day
- If the patient is on leave from midnight to 2359 hours count as a leave day
- The day the patient returns from leave is counted as a patient day
- The day the patient is separated is not counted as a patient day.

The following additional rules cover special circumstances and in such cases, override the basic rules:
- Patients admitted and separated on the same date (same-day patients) are to be given a count of one patient day
- If the patient is admitted and goes on leave on the same day, count as a patient day
- If the patient returns from leave and goes on leave on the same date, count as a leave day.
- If the patient returns from leave and is separated, it is not counted as either a patient day or a leave day.

If a patient goes on leave the day they are admitted and does not return from leave until the day they are discharged, count as one patient day (the day of admission is counted as a patient day, the day of separation is not counted as a patient day).

When calculating total patient days for a specified period:
- Count the total patient days of those patients separated during the specified period including those admitted before the specified period
- Do not count the patient days of those patients admitted during the specified period who did not separate until the following reference period
- Contract patient days are included in the count of total patient days. If it is a requirement to distinguish contract patient days from other patient days, they can be calculated by using the rules contained in the data element: total contract patient days.

Collection Methods: For the national minimum data set - Admitted patient care the reference period for data collection is a financial year ie. 1 July to 30 June inclusive.

Related metadata: relates to the data element Total leave days version 3
supersedes previous derived data element Patient days version 2
relates to the data element Discharge date version 4
relates to the data element Admission date version 4
relates to the data element Total contract patient days version 1

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee

Data Element Links
Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element