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# Patient days

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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: 000206                      Version number: 2  
Metadata type: DERIVED DATA ELEMENT  
Registration Authority: NHIMG                      Admin status: SUPERSEDED  
Effective date: 30-JUN-00  
Definition: The number of patient days is the total number of days or part days of stay for all patients who were admitted for an episode of care and who underwent separation during a specified reference period.  
Context: Admitted patient care: needed as the basic count of the number of services provided by an establishment.

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype: Numeric  
Representational form: QUANTITATIVE VALUE  
Representation layout: NNNNNNNN  
Minimum Size: 1  
Maximum Size: 8  
Data Domain: NOVAL              Total patient days for the period  
Guide For Use: A day is measured from midnight to midnight.

The following rules are used to calculate the number of patient days for both overnight and same-day patients:

- The day the patient is admitted is a patient day.
- The day the patient is discharged is not counted as a patient day (unless the patient was admitted and separated on the same date).
- Patients admitted and separated on the same date (same-day patients) are to be given a count of one day.
- The day a patient goes on leave is counted as a leave day.
- The day the patient returns from leave is counted as a patient day.
- If the patient is admitted and goes on leave on the same day, count as a patient day, not 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.  
All leave days are excluded from the patient days count except for the day the patient returns from leave.

Exclude patient days for those patients admitted during the specified reference period who did not undergo separation until the following reference period.

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

Related metadata: is derived from Total leave days version 3  
supersedes previous data element Occupied bed days version 1  
is derived from Type of episode of care version 3  
is derived from Separation date version 5  
is derived from Admission date version 4  
has been superseded by Patient days version 3

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### *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee

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Comments: It should be noted that for private patients in public and private hospitals, s.3(12) of the Health Insurance Act 1973 (Cwlth) currently applies a different leave day count (Commonwealth Department Human Services and Health HBF Circular 354 (31 March 1994)).

### *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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