
Impairment extent

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: NCSDD
Knowledgebase ID: 000566 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NCSIMG Admin status: TRIAL
Effective date: 01-JUL-00

Definition: The presence and extent or magnitude of the impairment in relation to a given body function or structure.
Impairments are problems in body function or structure such as significant deviation or loss.

Context: Impairments represent a deviation from some generally accepted population standards in the biomedical status of body and its functions, and definition of their constituents is undertaken primarily by those qualified to judge physical and mental functioning according to these standards.
Impairments of body structure can involve an anomaly, defect, loss or other significant deviation.
Body structure and body function can be related to this data element to indicate the sorts of interventions that may result in improved functioning. This could be in the form of rehabilitation, health-related interventions, equipment, or support for example.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: N
Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size: 1

Data Domain: 1 No impairment
 2 Mild impairment
 3 Moderate impairment
 4 Severe impairment
 5 Complete impairment

Guide For Use: Body structure and function and impairment of body structure and function are classified in the ICDH-2 Beta-2 draft, 1999. Refer to the Information Annexe - Disability for further details.

No impairment is recorded when there is no significant deviation from generally accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions.

Mild impairment is recorded when there is small deviation from generally accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions.

Moderate impairment is recorded when there is a significant but not severe deviation from generally accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions.

Severe impairment is recorded when there is extreme deviation from generally accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions.

Complete impairment is recorded when there is total deviation from generally accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions.

Not stated/inadequately described is recorded when there is insufficient information to record extent of impairment in any other class.

Collection Methods: This coding is used in conjunction with specified body structures and body functions, for example 'mild impairment of structures related to movement'.

Impairments should be detectable or noticeable by others or the person by direct observation or by inference from indirect observation. Impairments are not the same as the underlying pathology, but are manifestations of that pathology.

Impairments can be temporary or permanent; progressive, regressive or static; intermittent or continuous. The deviation from the norm may be slight or severe and may fluctuate over time.

Impairments may result in other impairments.

Impairment is related to a health condition, but does not necessarily indicate that disease is present or that the individual is sick.

Related metadata: relates to the data element Assistance with activity version 1
 is used in conjunction with Body functions version 1
 is used in conjunction with Body structures version 1
 relates to the data element Activity - level of difficulty version 1
 relates to the data element concept Disability version 1
 relates to the data element Disability grouping - Australian national version 1
 relates to the data element Disability grouping - International

