External cause

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000053   Version number: 2

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration Authority: NHIMG   Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Effective date: 30-JUN-97

Definition: Event, circumstance or condition associated with the occurrence of injury, poisoning or violence.

Context: Institutional health care: enables categorisation of injury and poisoning according to factors important for injury control. This information is necessary for defining and monitoring injury control targets, injury costing and identifying cases for in-depth research. It is also used as a quality of care indicator of adverse patient outcomes.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Alphanumeric

Representational form: CODE

Representation layout:

Minimum Size:

Maximum Size:

Data Domain: NOVAL   There are two methods of coding external cause:
- ICD-9-CM
- injury surveillance:
  - major external cause group
  - human intent associated with injury cause

Guide For Use: ICD-9-CM is the preferred classification for this data item. All admitted patients should be coded to the complete ICD-9-CM classification. For injury surveillance purposes only, when it is not possible to use a complete ICD-9-CM code (e.g. non-admitted patients in emergency departments) the external cause should be coded to the second level classification - major external cause group and human intent.

ICD-9-CM
An external cause coded to ICD-9-CM should be sequenced following the related injury or condition code, or following the group of codes, if more than one injury or condition has resulted from this external cause. Provision should be made to record more than one external cause if appropriate. All external cause codes must be accompanied by a place of occurrence code (data element Place of occurrence of external cause). Refer to the Australian Coding Standards for ICD-9-CM, National Coding Centre, Sydney.

Injury-surveillance - major external cause group
Select the item which best characterises the circumstances of the injury, on the basis of the information available at the time it is recorded. If two or more categories are judged to be equally appropriate select the one that comes first in the code list. The major external cause group must always be accompanied by a human intent code.

Injury surveillance - human intent
Select the item which best characterises the role of intent in the occurrence of the injury, on the basis of the information available at the time it is recorded. If two or more categories are judged to be equally appropriate, select the one that comes first in the code list. This item must always be accompanied by a major external cause group.

Related metadata: is used in conjunction with Principal diagnosis - ICD-9-CM code version 2
is used in conjunction with Additional diagnosis - ICD-9-CM code version 3
supersedes previous data element External cause version 1
is used in conjunction with Narrative description of injury event version 1
is used in conjunction with Nature of main injury - non-admitted patient version 1
is used in conjunction with Bodily location of main injury version 1
is used in conjunction with Activity when injured version 1
is used in conjunction with Place of occurrence of external cause version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee, National Coding Centre and National Data Standards for Injury Surveillance Advisory Group

Comments: This item has been modified to recognise the use of this information in injury surveillance. There has been no change to the coding requirements for patients admitted to hospital. The addition of a second level of classification has been necessary to cater for the information requirements of the wide range of settings undertaking injury surveillance who do not have the capability of recording the complete ICD-9-CM external cause codes. The second level classification has been derived from the ICD-9-CM and ICD-10 disease classifications. Further information on the national injury surveillance program can be obtained from the National Injury Surveillance Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Adelaide. The recommended classifications for injury surveillance purposes are as follows:

Injury surveillance - major external cause group
1   Motor vehicle - driver
2   Motor vehicle - passenger or unspecified occupant
3   Motorcycle - driver
4   Motorcycle - passenger or unspecified
5   Pedal cyclist or pedal cycle passenger
6   Pedestrian
7   Other or unspecified transport-related circumstance
8   Horse-related (includes falls from, struck or bitten by)
9   Fall - low (on same level or < 1 metre or no information on height)
10   Fall - high (drop of > 1 metre or more)
11   Drowning, submersion - swimming pool
12   Drowning, submersion - other than swimming pool (excludes drowning associated with water craft (7))
13   Other threat to breathing (including strangling and asphyxiation)
14   Fire, flames, smoke
15   Hot drink, food water, other fluid, steam , gas or vapour
16   Hot object or substance, not otherwise specified
17   Poisoning - drugs or medicinal substance
18   Poisoning - other substance
19   Firearm
20   Cutting, piercing object
21   Dog-related

22   Animal-related (excluding horse (8) and dog (21))
23   Struck by or collision with object or person
24   Machinery in operation
25   Electricity
26   Hot conditions (natural origin) sunlight
27   Cold conditions (natural origin)
28   Other specified external cause
29   Unspecified external cause

Injury surveillance - human intent association with injury cause
1   Accident - injury not intended
2   Intentional self harm
3   Sexual assault
4   Maltreatment by parent
5   Maltreatment by spouse or partner
6   Other and unspecified assault
7   Event of undetermined intent
8   Legal intervention (including police) or operations of war
9   Adverse effect or complications of medical and surgical care
10   Other specified intent
11   Intent not specified

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM   Injury event

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

NMDS - Injury surveillance   From 01-Jul-96 to 30-Jun-97