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# Emergency department - public hospital

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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: 000815                      Version number: 1  
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT CONCEPT  
Admin status: SUPERSEDED                      Effective date: 01-MAR-05  
Definition: The dedicated area in a public hospital that is organised and administered to provide emergency care to those in the community who perceive the need for or are in need of acute or urgent care.  
  
The emergency department must be part of a hospital and be licensed or otherwise recognised as an emergency department by the appropriate State or Territory authority.  
  
An emergency department provides triage, assessment, care and/or treatment for patients suffering from medical condition(s) and/or injury.  
Context: Emergency department care

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype:  
Related metadata: relates to the data element concept Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode version 1

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## *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document:  
Source Organisation: National reference group for non-admitted patient data development, 2001/02  
  
Comments: This data element concept has been defined to support the NMDS - Non-admitted patient emergency department care. It is not intended as a definitive statement of the role or purpose of an emergency department.

The national definition of an emergency department and the care that is provided in an emergency department is characterised by jurisdictional and local differences. For example, there is no national agreement on the identification and classification of emergency department-related settings such as observation units, short stays units, or the use of 'admitted patient beds' located in an emergency department setting.

Emergency department is therefore defined as a concept, and not necessarily as a physical premises, setting or site.

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### *Data Element Links*

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

NHIM    Service delivery setting

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

NMDS - Non-admitted patient emergency      From 01-Jul-03 to  
department care

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