



This excludes formal services such as delivered meals or home help, persons arranged by formal services such as volunteers, and funded group housing or similar situations. Availability infers carer willingness and ability to undertake the caring role and can apply when there are several carers. Where a potential carer is not prepared to undertake the role, or when their capacity to carry out necessary tasks is minimal, then the person must be coded as not having 'No carer available'.

Where there are several carers, a decision should be taken as to which of these is the main or primary carer and code accordingly. The following descriptions may assist in the selection of the most appropriate data.

1. PERSON INDEPENDENT indicates that the person has no need for assistance from informal carers.
2. NO CARER AVAILABLE means that the person needs a carer but has no one able to provide informal care.
3. HAS A CO-RESIDENT CARER (excludes Code 5) means that the person has a carer who is living in the same household.
4. HAS A NON-RESIDENT CARER means that the person has a carer who is living in a different household.
5. LIVES IN A MUTUALLY DEPENDENT SITUATION (excludes Code 3) refers to those households where the service recipient and another person are mutually dependent. The critical aspect of such households is that if either member becomes unavailable for any reason, the other is either at high risk or unable to remain at home.
6. NOT APPLICABLE PERSON IN RESIDENTIAL CARE - services are provided by a formal agency in a supported accommodation or other care facility.
99. NOT STATED/INSUFFICIENTLY DESCRIBED means that there is insufficient information to determine carer availability.

Collection Methods: Carer availability is to be collected at admission and again at discharge. The discharge information refers to the status immediately prior to the discharge, and not the need of the service recipient after the event.

Related metadata: supersedes previous data element Carer availability version 1

