

Impairment extent code (ICF 2001) N

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Value Domain
Synonymous names:	Impairment extent
METEOR identifier:	288437
Registration status:	Community Services (retired) , Superseded 16/10/2006
Definition:	A code set representing the degree of impairment in a specified body function or body structure from the <i>Body Functions and Structures</i> component of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF 2001).
Context:	Human functioning and disability.

Representational attributes

Classification scheme:	International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health 2001
Representation class:	Code
Data type:	String
Format:	N
Maximum character length:	1

	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	0	No impairment
	1	Mild impairment
	2	Moderate impairment
	3	Severe impairment
	4	Complete impairment
Supplementary values:	8	Not specified
	9	Not applicable

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

Impairments of [body structure](#) or [body function](#) are problems in body structure or function such as a loss or significant departure from population standards or averages.

Impairments are recorded in terms of their extent or magnitude, nature and/or location. Determination of impairment is undertaken primarily by those qualified to evaluate physical and mental functioning or structure according to these standards.

This metadata item contributes to the definition of the concept '[Disability](#)' and gives an indication of the experience of disability for a person.

CODE 0 No impairment

Is recorded when there is no significant variation from accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions [0-4%].

CODE 1 Mild impairment

Is recorded when there is a slight or low variation from accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions [5-24%].

CODE 2 Moderate impairment

Is recorded when there is a medium (significant but not severe) variation from accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions [25-49%].

CODE 3 Severe impairment

Is recorded when there is an extreme variation from accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions [50-95%].

CODE 4 Complete impairment

Is recorded when there is a total variation from accepted population standards in the biomedical status of the body and its functions [96-100%].

Collection Methods:

This coding is used in conjunction with specified [body functions](#) and [body structures](#), for example 'mild impairment of structures related to movement'. This code may also be used in conjunction with [Impairment nature code X](#) and [Impairment location code X](#) with specified body structures.

Broad ranges of percentages are provided for collections where calibrated assessment instruments or other standards are available to quantify the impairment. Many existing assessment tools are in use, and are embedded in measurement and payment methods in services in Australia. Calibration and mapping of existing tools within this international framework will be an important process towards greater national consistency of data on body functions, structures and impairments thereof.

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 population norm may be slight or severe and may fluctuate over time. Impairments may result in other impairments.

Impairments may be part, or an expression of a health condition, but do not necessarily indicate that a disease is present or that the individual should be regarded as sick.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:

Australian Institute of health and Welfare which is the Australian Collaborating Centre for the World Health Organization Family of International Classifications.

Origin: World Health Organization (WHO) 2001. ICF: International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health. Geneva: WHO

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2003. ICF Australian User Guide Version 1.0. Canberra: AIHW

Reference documents: Further information on the ICF including more detailed codes, can be found in the ICF itself and the ICF Australian User Guide (AIHW 2003), at the following websites:

- WHO ICF website
<http://www.who.int/classifications/icf/en/>
- Australian Collaborating Centre ICF website
<http://www.aihw.gov.au/disability/icf/index.html>

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Has been superseded by [Impairment extent code \(ICF 2001\) N Community Services \(retired\)](#), Standard 16/10/2006
[Disability](#), Standard 13/08/2015
[Health](#), Standard 29/11/2006