Impairment nature code (ICF 2001) N

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Value Domain
METEOR identifier:	288474
Registration status:	Community Services (retired), Superseded 16/10/2006
Definition:	A code set representing the nature of the change in a specified body structure in the *Body Structures* 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:	Number	
Format:	N	
Maximum character length:	1	
	Value	**Meaning**
Permissible values:	0	No change in structure
	1	Total absence
	2	Partial absence
	3	Additional part
	4	Aberrant dimensions
	5	Discontinuity
	6	Deviating position
	7	Qualitative changes in structure
Supplementary values:	8	Not specified
	9	Not applicable

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

Impairments of body structure are problems in body structure 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 change in structure

Is recorded when the structure of the body part is within the range of the population standard.

CODE 1 Total absence

Is recorded when the body structure is not present. For example total absence of the structures of the lower leg following a thorough knee amputation.

CODE 2 Partial absence

Is recorded when only part of a body structure is present. For example partial absence of the bones of the lower leg following below knee amputation.

CODE 3 Additional part

Is recorded when a structure not usually present in the population is present, for example a sixth lumbar vertebra or an sixth digit on one hand.

CODE 4 Aberrant dimensions

Is recorded when the shape and size of a body structure is significantly different from the population standard. For example radial aplasia where the shape and size of the radial bone does not develop.

CODE 5 Discontinuity

Is recorded when parts of a body structure are separated, for example cleft palate or fracture.

CODE 6 Deviating position

Is recorded when the location of a structure is not according to population standard; for example, transposition of the great vessels, where the aorta arises from the right ventricle and the pulmonary vessels from the left ventricle.

CODE 7 Qualitative changes in structure

Is recorded when the structure of a body part is altered from the population standard. This includes accumulation of fluid, changes in bone structure as a result of osteoporosis or Paget's disease.

Collection Methods:

This coding is used in conjunction with specified body structures, for example 'partial absence of structures related to movement'. This code may also be used in conjunction with *Impairment extent code X* and *Impairment location code X*.

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.

Comments:

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, which is the Australian Collaborating Centre for the WHO 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 can be found in the ICF itself and the ICF Australian User Guide (AIHW documents: 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 nature code (ICF 2001) N
Community Services (retired), Standard 16/10/2006
Disability, Standard 13/08/2015
Health, Standard 29/11/2006