

# Episode of care—principal diagnosis, code (ICD-10-AM 5th edn) ANN{.N[N]}

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# Episode of care—principal diagnosis, code (ICD-10-AM 5th edn) ANN{.N[N]}

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Element
<b>Short name:</b>	Principal diagnosis
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	333838
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Health</a> , Superseded 05/02/2008
<b>Definition:</b>	The diagnosis established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning an episode of admitted patient care, an episode of residential care or an attendance at the health care establishment, as represented by a code.
<b>Data Element Concept:</b>	<a href="#">Episode of care—principal diagnosis</a>
<b>Value Domain:</b>	<a href="#">Diagnosis code (ICD-10-AM 5th edn) ANN{.N[N]}</a>

## Value domain attributes

## Representational attributes

<b>Classification scheme:</b>	<a href="#">International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification 5th edition</a>
<b>Representation class:</b>	Code
<b>Data type:</b>	String
<b>Format:</b>	ANN{.N[N]}
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	6

## Data element attributes

## Collection and usage attributes

<b>Guide for use:</b>	<p>The principal diagnosis must be determined in accordance with the Australian Coding Standards. Each episode of admitted patient care must have a principal diagnosis and may have additional diagnoses. The diagnosis can include a disease, condition, injury, poisoning, sign, symptom, abnormal finding, complaint, or other factor influencing health status.</p> <p>As a minimum requirement the Principal diagnosis code must be a valid code from the current edition of ICD-10-AM.</p> <p>For episodes of admitted patient care, some diagnosis codes are too imprecise or inappropriate to be acceptable as a principal diagnosis and will group to 951Z, 955Z and 956Z in the Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups.</p> <p>Diagnosis codes starting with a V, W, X or Y, describing the circumstances that cause an injury, rather than the nature of the injury, cannot be used as principal diagnosis. Diagnosis codes which are morphology codes cannot be used as principal diagnosis.</p>
<b>Collection methods:</b>	A principal diagnosis should be recorded and coded upon <a href="#">separation</a> , for each episode of patient care. The principal diagnosis is derived from and must be substantiated by clinical documentation.
<b>Comments:</b>	The principal diagnosis is one of the most valuable health data elements. It is used for epidemiological research, casemix studies and planning purposes.

## Source and reference attributes

**Origin:** Health Data Standards Committee  
National Centre for Classification in Health  
National Data Standard for Injury Surveillance Advisory Group

**Reference documents:** Bramley M, Peasley K, Langtree L and Innes K 2002. The ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: an integrated classification and diagnostic tool for community-based mental health services. Sydney: National Centre for Classification in Health, University of Sydney

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [Episode of care—principal diagnosis, code \(ICD-10-AM 4th edn\) ANN{.N\[N\]}](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 07/12/2005

Has been superseded by [Episode of care—principal diagnosis, code \(ICD-10-AM 6th edn\) ANN{.N\[N\]}](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 22/12/2009

Is used in the formation of [Episode of admitted patient care—major diagnostic category, code \(AR-DRG v5.1\) NN](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 22/12/2009

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:** [Admitted patient care NMDS 2006-07](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 23/10/2006  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2006  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2007  
**DSS specific information:**

The principal diagnosis is a major determinant in the classification of Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups and Major Diagnostic Categories.

Where the principal diagnosis is recorded prior to discharge (as in the annual census of public psychiatric hospital patients), it is the current provisional principal diagnosis. Only use the admission diagnosis when no other diagnostic information is available. The current provisional diagnosis may be the same as the admission diagnosis.

Effective for collection from 01/07/2006

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2007-08](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2008  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2007  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2008  
**DSS specific information:**

The principal diagnosis is a major determinant in the classification of Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups and Major Diagnostic Categories.

Where the principal diagnosis is recorded prior to discharge (as in the annual census of public psychiatric hospital patients), it is the current provisional principal diagnosis. Only use the admission diagnosis when no other diagnostic information is available. The current provisional diagnosis may be the same as the admission diagnosis.

Effective for collection from 01/07/2006

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 23/10/2006  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2006  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2007  
**DSS specific information:** Effective for collection from 01/07/2006

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2007-08](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2008  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2007

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2008  
**DSS specific information:** Effective for collection from 01/07/2006

[Admitted patient palliative care NMDs 2006-07](#)

Health, Superseded 23/10/2006

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2006  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2007  
**DSS specific information:** Effective for collection from 01/07/2006

[Admitted patient palliative care NMDs 2007-08](#)

Health, Superseded 05/02/2008

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2007  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2008  
**DSS specific information:** Effective for collection from 01/07/2006

[Community mental health care NMDs 2006-07](#)

Health, Superseded 23/10/2006

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2006  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2007  
**DSS specific information:**

Codes can be used from ICD-10-AM or from The ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An Integrated Classification and Diagnostic Tool for Community-Based Mental Health Services, published by the National Centre for Classification in Health 2002.

Effective for collection from 01/07/2006

[Community mental health care NMDs 2007-08](#)

Health, Superseded 05/02/2008

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2007  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2008  
**DSS specific information:**

Codes can be used from ICD-10-AM or from The ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An Integrated Classification and Diagnostic Tool for Community-Based Mental Health Services, published by the National Centre for Classification in Health 2002.

Effective for collection from 01/07/2006

[Residential mental health care NMDs 2006-07](#)

Health, Superseded 23/10/2006

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2006  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2007  
**DSS specific information:**

Codes can be used from ICD-10-AM or from The ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An Integrated Classification and Diagnostic Tool for Community-Based Mental Health Services, published by the National Centre for Classification in Health 2002.

The principal diagnosis should be recorded and coded upon the end of an episode of residential care (i.e. annually for continuing residential care).

Effective for collection from 01/07/2006

[Residential mental health care NMDs 2007-08](#)

Health, Superseded 05/02/2008

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2007  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2008  
**DSS specific information:**

Codes can be used from ICD-10-AM or from The ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An Integrated Classification and Diagnostic Tool for Community-Based Mental Health Services, published by the National Centre for Classification in Health 2002.

The principal diagnosis should be recorded and coded upon the end of an episode of residential care (i.e. annually for continuing residential care).

**Implementation in Indicators:**

**Used as Numerator**

[National Healthcare Agreement: P22-Selected potentially preventable hospitalisations, 2010](#)

Health, Superseded 08/06/2011

[National Healthcare Agreement: P41-Falls resulting in patient harm in hospitals, 2010](#)

Health, Superseded 08/06/2011

[National Healthcare Agreement: P42-Intentional self-harm in hospitals, 2010](#)

Health, Superseded 08/06/2011

[National Healthcare Agreement: P43-Unplanned/unexpected readmissions within 28 days of selected surgical admissions, 2010](#)

Health, Superseded 08/06/2011

**Used as Disaggregation**

[National Indigenous Reform Agreement: P11-Child under 5 hospitalisation rates by principal diagnosis, 2010](#)

Community Services (retired), Superseded 04/04/2011

[National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 11-Child under 5 hospitalisation rates by principal diagnosis, 2011](#)

Indigenous, Superseded 01/07/2012

[National Indigenous Reform Agreement: PI 11-Child under 5 hospitalisation rates by principal diagnosis, 2012](#)

Indigenous, Superseded 13/06/2013