

National Healthcare Agreement: P22-Selected potentially preventable hospitalisations, 2010 QS

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Quality Statement
METEOR identifier:	392644
Registration status:	Health , Superseded 08/06/2011

Data quality

Data quality statement summary:

- The National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD) is a comprehensive dataset that has records for all separations of admitted patients from essentially all public and private hospitals in Australia.
- Separations are reported by the jurisdiction of usual residence of the patient, not the jurisdiction of hospitalisation.
- There is some variation in the recording of diabetes as an additional diagnosis. The number of separations for Western Australia was markedly higher for chronic potentially preventable conditions, mainly due to the inclusion of renal dialysis admissions in the chronic disease category 'Complications of diabetes'.
- The hospital separations data do not include care provided in outpatient clinics or emergency departments.
- Variations in admission practices and policies lead to variation among providers in the number of admissions for some conditions.

Institutional environment:

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has calculated this indicator. The data were supplied to the AIHW by state and territory health authorities. The state and territory health authorities received these data from public and private hospitals. States and territories use these data for service planning, monitoring and internal and public reporting.

The AIHW is an independent statutory authority within the Health and Ageing portfolio, which is accountable to the Parliament of Australia through the Minister. For further information see the AIHW website.

Hospitals may be required to provide data to states and territories through a variety of administrative arrangements, contractual requirements or legislation.

States and territories supplied these data under the terms of the National Health Information Agreement (see link).

http://www.aihw.gov.au/committees/simc/final_nhia_signed.doc

Timeliness:

The reference period for this data set is 2007–08.

Accessibility:

The AIHW provides a variety of products that draw upon the NHMD. Published products available on the AIHW website are:

- *Australian hospital statistics* with associated Excel tables.
- Interactive data cube for Admitted patient care (for Principal diagnoses, procedures and Diagnosis Related Groups).

Interpretability:

Supporting information on the quality and use of the NHMD are published annually in *Australian hospital statistics* (technical appendices), available in hard copy or on the AIHW website. Readers are advised to read caveat information to ensure appropriate interpretation of the performance indicator. Supporting information includes discussion of coverage, completeness of coding, the quality of Indigenous data, and changes in service delivery that might affect interpretation of the published data. Metadata information for the Admitted Patient Care National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) are published in the AIHW's online metadata repository, METeOR, and the *National health data dictionary*.

Relevance: The purpose of the Admitted Patient Care NMDS is to collect information about care provided to admitted patients in Australian hospitals. The scope of the NMDS is episodes of care for admitted patients in all public and private acute and psychiatric hospitals, free-standing day hospital facilities and alcohol and drug treatment centres in Australia. Hospitals operated by the Australian Defence Force, corrections authorities and in Australia's off-shore territories may also be included. Hospitals specialising in dental, ophthalmic aids and other specialised acute medical or surgical care are included.

The analyses by state and territory, remoteness and socioeconomic status are based on Statistical Local Area of usual residence of the patient, not the location of the hospital.

The hospital separations data do not include care provided in outpatient clinics or emergency departments.

Accuracy: For 2007–08, almost all public hospitals provided data for the NHMD, with the exception of a mothercraft hospital in the ACT. The great majority of private hospitals also provided data, the exceptions being the private day hospital facilities in the ACT, the single private free-standing day hospital facility in the NT, and a small private hospital in Victoria.

Inaccurate responses may occur in all data provided to the AIHW, and the AIHW does not have direct access to hospital records to determine the accuracy of the data provided. However, the AIHW undertakes extensive validations on receipt of data. Data are checked for valid values, logical consistency and historical consistency. Where possible, data in individual data sets are checked with data from other data sets. Potential errors are queried with jurisdictions, and corrections and resubmissions may be made in response to these edit queries.

The AIHW does not adjust data to account for possible data errors or missing or incorrect values.

The Indigenous status data are of sufficient quality for statistical reporting purposes for the following jurisdictions: NSW, Vic, Qld, SA, WA, NT (NT public hospitals only).

Variations in admission practices and policies lead to variation among providers in the number of admissions for some conditions.

There is some variation in the recording of diabetes as an additional diagnosis. The number of separations for Western Australia was markedly higher for chronic potentially preventable conditions, mainly due to the inclusion of renal dialysis admissions in the chronic disease category 'Complications of diabetes'.

Cells have been suppressed to protect confidentiality (where the presentation could identify a patient or a single service provider), where rates are likely to be highly volatile (for example, the denominator is very small), or data quality is known to be of insufficient quality (for example, where Indigenous identification rates are low).

Coherence: The information presented for this indicator is calculated using the same methodology as data published in *Australian hospital statistics 2007–08*, except that for the Indigenous disaggregation age standardisation is to 64 years here, rather than to 74 years as in *Australian hospital statistics*.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Has been superseded by [National Healthcare Agreement: P122-Selected potentially preventable hospitalisations, 2011 QS](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 04/12/2012

Indicators linked to this Data Quality statement: [National Healthcare Agreement: P22-Selected potentially preventable hospitalisations, 2010](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 08/06/2011

