

# Person—Individual Healthcare Identifier, N(16)

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Element
<b>Short name:</b>	Individual Healthcare Identifier
<b>Synonymous names:</b>	IHI
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	432495
<b>Registration status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Health</a>, Superseded 20/10/2021</li></ul>
<b>Definition:</b>	The numerical identifier that uniquely identifies each individual in the Australian healthcare system.
<b>Data Element Concept:</b>	<a href="#">Person—Individual Healthcare Identifier</a>

## Value domain attributes

## Representational attributes

<b>Representation class:</b>	Identifier
<b>Data type:</b>	Number
<b>Format:</b>	N(16)
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	16

## Source and reference attributes

<b>Submitting organisation:</b>	Cancer Australia
<b>Reference documents:</b>	National E-Health Transition Authority 2010. HI service: concept of operations. Version 2.0-final release. Sydney: National E-Health Transition Authority

## Data element attributes

## Collection and usage attributes

**Guide for use:** Each person's Individual Healthcare Identifier (IHI) is unique within the Australian health care system.

Record the full Individual Healthcare Identifier for an individual.

The IHI is part of the government's e-health initiative developed to enhance the way information is exchanged, shared and managed in the Australian health sector. Electronic identifiers and the systems underpinning them were developed and are maintained by Medicare Australia.

Individual Healthcare Identifiers are automatically assigned to all individuals registered with Medicare Australia or enrolled in the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) programs. Those not enrolled in Medicare Australia or with the Department of Veterans' Affairs are assigned a temporary number when they next seek healthcare; this is then validated by the Healthcare Identifiers (HI) Service Operator and becomes their unique IHI.

Only the individual, authorised healthcare providers and their authorised staff can access an individual's IHI number.

Each Individual Healthcare Identifier has an Identifier Status; this describes whether verification of the identifier of the individual has occurred and is based on the evidence available of a person's identity:

- **Verified:** All individuals eligible for Medicare or DVA benefits are assigned a verified IHI automatically.
- **Unverified:** For individuals whose identifier cannot be retrieved and who have an IHI created for them at the point of care. This caters, for instance, for newborns and overseas visitors.
- **Provisional:** Individuals who present at the point of care unconscious or unknown may be assigned a provisional IHI by the healthcare provider. This IHI expires after 90 days of inactivity on the assumption the patient will become known and a verified IHI obtained for them, or their IHI will be converted to an unverified IHI.

The IHI number does not change regardless of the person's Identifier Status.

All healthcare identifiers use the International Standard ISO 7812-1:2006 that specifies the numbering system for identification cards.

The format of the number is as follows:

Digits N1-N6: The issuer identification number, which in turn is made up of:

N1-N2, Major industry identifier: 80 = health

N3-N5, Country code: 036 = Australia

N6, Number type: 0 = IHI

Digits N7-N15: Individual account identification (9 digits for the unique identifier)

Digit N16: Check digit

**Collection methods:** Authorised healthcare providers and their authorised staff can access an individual's IHI online through the HI Service at the Medicare website.

**Comments:** The Individual Healthcare Identifier is an initiative of e-health and supports the accurate retrieval, discovery and recording of an individual's electronic health information, as part of the delivery of healthcare in Australia.

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Cancer Australia

**Reference documents:** National E-Health Transition Authority 2010. HI service: concept of operations. Version 2.0-final release. Sydney: National E-Health Transition Authority

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:**

Has been superseded by [Person—Individual Healthcare Identifier, N\(16\)](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 20/10/2021

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:**

[Lung cancer \(clinical\) DSS](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 14/05/2015

[Lung cancer \(clinical\) NBPDS](#)  
[Health](#), Standard 14/05/2015

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