Person—Individual Healthcare Identifier, N(16)

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

Person—Individual Healthcare Identifier, N(16)

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Individual Healthcare Identifier
Synonymous names:	IHI
METEOR identifier:	432495
Registration status:	Health, Superseded 20/10/2021
Definition:	The numerical identifier that uniquely identifies each individual in the Australian healthcare system.

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept:	Person—Individual Healthcare Identifier
METEOR identifier:	432486
Registration status:	Health, Standard 08/05/2014
Definition:	The identifier that uniquely identifies each individual in the Australian healthcare system.
Object class:	Person
Property:	Individual Healthcare Identifier

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain:	Identifier N(16)
METEOR identifier:	426832
Registration status:	Health, Standard 07/12/2011
Definition:	A unique combination of numbers that identifies an individual or organisation where healthcare is provided within Australia.

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Identifier
Data type:	Number
Format:	N(16)
Maximum character length:	16

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

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