

Episode of care—mental health legal status, code N

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Episode of care—mental health legal status, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Mental health legal status
METEOR identifier:	459215
Registration status:	Health , Superseded 07/03/2014
Definition:	Whether a person is treated on an involuntary basis under the relevant state or territory mental health legislation, at any time during an episode of admitted patient care, an episode of residential care or treatment of a patient/client by a community based service during a reporting period, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Episode of care—mental health legal status
Value Domain:	Mental health legal status code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	Number	
Format:	N	
Maximum character length:	1	
	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Involuntary patient
	2	Voluntary patient
Supplementary values:	9	Not reported/unknown

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	CODE 1 Involuntary patient
	Involuntary patient should only be used by facilities which are approved for this purpose. While each state and territory mental health legislation differs in the number of categories of involuntary patient that are recognised, and the specific titles and legal conditions applying to each type, the legal status categories which provide for compulsory detention or compulsory treatment of the patient can be readily differentiated within each jurisdiction. These include special categories for forensic patients who are charged with or convicted of some form of criminal activity. Each state/territory health authority should identify which sections of their mental health legislation provide for detention or compulsory treatment of the patient and code these as involuntary status.
	CODE 2 Voluntary patient
	Voluntary patient to be used for reporting to the Community mental health care NMDS, where applicable.
	CODE 9 Not reported/unknown
	This code is to be used if the mental health legal status for the patient is either not reported or unknown.

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

The mental health legal status of admitted patients treated within approved hospitals may change many times throughout the episode of care.

Patients may be admitted to hospital on an involuntary basis and subsequently be changed to voluntary status; some patients are admitted as voluntary but are transferred to involuntary status during the hospital stay. Multiple changes between voluntary and involuntary status during an episode of care in hospital or treatment in the community may occur depending on the patient's clinical condition and his/her capacity to consent to treatment.

Similarly, the mental health legal status of residents treated within residential care services may change on multiple occasions throughout the episode of residential care or residential stay.

Collection methods:

Admitted patients to be reported as involuntary if the patient is involuntary at any time during the episode of care.

[Residents](#) in [residential mental health services](#) to be reported as involuntary if the resident is involuntary at any time during the episode of residential care.

Patients of ambulatory mental health care services to be reported as involuntary if the patient is involuntary at the time of a service contact.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [Episode of care—mental health legal status, code N Health](#), Superseded 07/12/2011

Has been superseded by [Episode of care—mental health legal status, code N Health](#), Superseded 18/12/2019
[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 19/06/2020

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2012-13](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 02/05/2013

Implementation start date: 01/07/2012

Implementation end date: 30/06/2013

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2013-14](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 11/04/2014

Implementation start date: 01/07/2013

Implementation end date: 30/06/2014

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2012-13](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 02/05/2013

Implementation start date: 01/07/2012

Implementation end date: 30/06/2013

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2013-14](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 15/10/2014

Implementation start date: 01/07/2013

Implementation end date: 30/06/2014

[Community mental health care NMDS 2012-13](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 07/02/2013

Implementation start date: 01/07/2012

Implementation end date: 30/06/2013

[Community mental health care NMDS 2013-14](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 07/03/2014

Implementation start date: 01/07/2013

Implementation end date: 30/06/2014

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2012-13](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 06/09/2013

Implementation start date: 01/07/2012

Implementation end date: 30/06/2013

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2013-14](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 07/03/2014

Implementation start date: 01/07/2013

Implementation end date: 30/06/2014