

Episode of admitted patient care—condition onset flag, code N

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build on this website's material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to info@aihw.gov.au.

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at meteor@aihw.gov.au.

Episode of admitted patient care—condition onset flag, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Condition onset flag
Synonymous names:	COF
METEOR identifier:	496512
Registration status:	Health , Superseded 05/10/2016
Definition:	A qualifier for each coded diagnosis to indicate the onset of the condition relative to the beginning of the episode of care, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Episode of admitted patient care—condition onset flag
Value Domain:	Condition onset flag code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	N
Maximum character length:	1

	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Condition with onset during the episode of admitted patient care
	2	Condition not noted as arising during the episode of admitted patient care
Supplementary values:	9	Not reported

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

COF 1 Condition with onset during the episode of admitted patient care

- a condition which arises during the episode of admitted patient care and would not have been present or suspected on admission.

Includes:

- A condition resulting from misadventure during surgical or medical care in the current episode of admitted patient care (e.g. accidental laceration during procedure, foreign body left in cavity, medication infusion error).
- An abnormal reaction to, or later complication of, surgical or medical care arising during the current episode of admitted patient care (e.g. postprocedural shock, disruption of wound, catheter associated urinary tract infection (UTI)).
- A condition newly arising during the episode of admitted patient care (e.g. pneumonia, rash, confusion, UTI, hypotension, electrolyte imbalance).
- A condition impacting on obstetric care arising after admission, including complications or unsuccessful interventions of labour and delivery or prenatal/postpartum management (e.g. labour and delivery complicated by fetal heart rate anomalies, postpartum haemorrhage).
- For neonates, this also includes the condition(s) in the birth episode arising during the birth event (i.e. the labour and delivery process) (e.g. respiratory distress, jaundice, feeding problems, neonatal aspiration, conditions associated with birth trauma, newborn affected by delivery or intrauterine procedures).
- Disease status or administrative codes arising during the episode of admitted patient care (e.g. cancelled procedure, multi-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA)).

COF 2 Condition not noted as arising during the episode of admitted patient care

- a condition previously existing or suspected on admission such as the presenting problem, a comorbidity or chronic disease.

Includes:

- A condition that has not been documented at the time of admission, but clearly did not develop after admission (e.g. newly diagnosed diabetes mellitus, malignancy and morphology).
- A previously existing condition that is exacerbated during the current episode of admitted patient care (e.g. atrial fibrillation, unstable angina).
- A condition that is suspected at the time of admission and subsequently confirmed during the current episode of admitted patient care (e.g. pneumonia, acute myocardial infarction (AMI), stroke, unstable angina).
- A condition impacting on obstetric care arising prior to admission (e.g. venous complications, maternal disproportion).
- For neonates, this also includes the condition(s) in the birth episode arising before the labour and delivery process (e.g. prematurity, birth weight, talipes, clicking hip).
- Disease status or administrative codes not arising during the episode of admitted patient care (e.g. history of tobacco use, duration of pregnancy, colostomy status).
- Outcome of delivery (Z37) and place of birth (Z38) codes.

COF 9 Not reported

The condition onset flag could not be reported due to limitations of the data management system.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

Assign the relevant COF value only to ICD-10-AM codes assigned in the principal diagnosis and additional diagnosis fields for the National Hospital Morbidity Database collection.

Sequencing of ICD-10-AM codes must comply with the Australian Coding Standards and therefore codes should not be re-sequenced in an attempt to list codes with the same COF values together.

The principal diagnosis code is always assigned COF 2. The exception to this is neonates in their admitted birth episode in that hospital where codes sequenced as the principal diagnosis may be assigned COF 1 if appropriate.

For neonates, where a condition in the admitted birth episode is determined to have arisen during the birth event (i.e. labour and delivery process), these conditions should be considered as arising during the episode of admitted patient care and assigned COF 1.

When a single ICD-10-AM code describes multiple concepts (i.e. a combination code) and any concept within that code meets the criteria of COF 1, assign COF 1.

When it is difficult to decide if a condition was present at the beginning of the episode of care or if it arose during the episode, assign a COF 2.

Explanatory notes:

The COF value assigned to external cause, place of occurrence and activity codes should match that of the corresponding injury or disease code. Injuries which occur during the admitted episode of care but not on the hospital grounds (e.g. hospital in the home (HITH)) should be assigned COF 1 as 'arising during the episode of admitted patient care'.

The COF value assigned to morphology codes should match that on the corresponding neoplasm code.

The COF value on Z codes related to the outcome of delivery on the mother's record (Z37), or the place of birth on the baby's record (Z38) should always be assigned COF 2.

The COF value on aetiology and manifestation (dagger and asterisk) codes should be appropriate to each condition and therefore the dagger and asterisk codes may be assigned different COF values.

An episode of admitted patient care includes all periods when the patient remains admitted and under the responsibility of the health care provider, including periods of authorised leave and HITH. Where diagnoses arising during this period meet the criteria for ACS 0002 *Additional diagnoses*, coders should apply the COF Guide for use instructions and assign COF 1 if appropriate. Unauthorised leave does not fall under the responsibility of the health care provider and conditions arising during this time should be assigned COF 2.

Where an admission has multiple admitted patient episode 'care type' changes (e.g. acute to rehabilitation), COF assignment should be relevant to each episode. A condition arising in an episode should be assigned COF 1. If care for that condition continues in subsequent episodes those conditions should be assigned COF 2.

Collection methods:

A condition onset flag should be recorded and coded upon completion of an episode of admitted patient care.

Comments: The condition onset flag is a means of differentiating those conditions which arise during, from those arising before, an admitted patient episode of care. Having this information will provide an insight into the kinds of conditions patients already have when entering hospital and those conditions that arise during the episode of admitted patient care. A better understanding of those conditions arising during the episode of admitted patient care may inform prevention strategies particularly in relation to complications of medical care.

The flag only indicates when the condition had onset, and cannot be used to indicate whether a condition was considered to be preventable.

Source and reference attributes

Origin: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Episode of admitted patient care—condition onset flag, code N Health](#), Superseded 07/02/2013
Has been superseded by [Episode of admitted patient care—condition onset flag, code N Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [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 care NMDS 2014-15 Health](#), Superseded 13/11/2014
Implementation start date: 01/07/2014
Implementation end date: 30/06/2015
[Admitted patient care NMDS 2015-16 Health](#), Superseded 10/11/2015
Implementation start date: 01/07/2015
Implementation end date: 30/06/2016
[Admitted patient care NMDS 2016-17 Health](#), Superseded 05/10/2016
Implementation start date: 01/07/2016
Implementation end date: 30/06/2017

Implementation in Indicators: **Used as Numerator**
[National Healthcare Agreement: PB f—By 2014–15, improve the provision of primary care and reduce the proportion of potentially preventable hospital admissions by 7.6 per cent over the 2006-07 baseline to 8.5 per cent of total hospital admissions, 2016 Health](#), Superseded 31/01/2017
[National Healthcare Agreement: PB g—Better health: the rate of Staphylococcus aureus \(including MRSA\) bacteraemia is no more than 2.0 per 10,000 occupied bed days for acute care public hospitals by 2011–12 in each state and territory, 2014 Health](#), Superseded 14/01/2015
[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 18—Selected potentially preventable hospitalisations, 2016 Health](#), Superseded 31/01/2017