

Person and provider identification in healthcare National Best Practice Data Set

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Data Set Specification

METEOR identifier: 529511

Registration status:

- [Health](#), Standard 05/10/2016

DSS type: Data Set Specification (DSS)

Scope: The Person and provider identification in healthcare National Best Practice Data Set (NBPDS) provides a framework for the accurate identification of individuals (clients and providers of healthcare) and healthcare organisations. It covers identifiers used in the Australian healthcare system, including but not limited to, national healthcare identifiers.

The data set helps identify the following three groups:

- clients of the healthcare system (including potential clients and carers for clients)
- individual providers of services in the healthcare system
- organisations that provide healthcare services.

The data set is intended for use by health and health-related establishments that create, use or maintain records on individual clients and healthcare providers.

The data set supports uniform good practice in identifying individuals and healthcare organisations, and recording and using their identifying data. The correct application of this data set will assist in ensuring that records relating to each individual or organisation are associated with that individual or organisation, and no other.

Unambiguous identification of an individual in healthcare—particularly when communicating between computer systems or organisations, and when referencing files of information about an individual—requires the use of a unique identifier. Unique identifiers may be allocated by national authorities (for example, Medicare number), state or territory authorities, local government authorities, individual healthcare organisations (for example, the record number) or by departments within an organisation (for example, the diagnostic service number).

The data set supports the concept of an index of identifiers that allows the use of multiple and multilevel identifiers for a given individual.

Collection and usage attributes

Statistical unit: Individual healthcare client; individual healthcare provider; organisational healthcare provider.

Guide for use: The data set is intended to complement the requirements of the Healthcare Identifiers (HI) Service.

Relationship to the HI Service

The HI Service is funded by all Australian governments and is the foundation for the broader eHealth system. This service is underpinned by the *Healthcare Identifiers Act 2010* (the HI Act), the Healthcare Identifiers Regulations 2010, the *National Partnership Agreement on E-Health*, and the service level agreements between the Australian Digital Health Agency and the Australian Government Department of Human Services.

The HI Service provides services to the health sector that will assist in the identification of individuals (patients and healthcare providers) and organisations involved in the receipt or provision of healthcare. This service is in evolution and is likely to change over time. The HI Service uses a unique 16 digit identification number. However, these are not the only identifiers used in healthcare, nor do they necessarily replace the use of local identifiers in individual healthcare organisations.

The HI Act restricts the way in which the national identifiers and the HI Service can be used and specifies three types of national healthcare identifiers:

- Individual Healthcare Identifier (IHI) for individuals receiving healthcare services
- Healthcare Provider Identifier–Individual (HPI-I) for healthcare professionals involved in providing patient care
- Healthcare Provider Identifier–Organisation (HPI-O) for organisations that deliver healthcare (such as hospitals or general practices).

Comments: *Glossary items*

Glossary terms that are relevant to this NBPDS are included here.

[Address](#)

[Birthweight](#)

[Data exchange agreement](#)

[Family](#)

[Geocode](#)

[Geographic indicator](#)

[Healthcare provider](#)

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Reference documents: Standards Australia 2014. AS 4846:2014 Person and provider identification in healthcare. Sydney: Standards Australia.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: See also [Health care client identification DSS](#)

- [Health](#), Retired 20/03/2013

See also [Health care provider identification DSS](#)

- [Health](#), Retired 20/03/2013

Metadata items in this Data Set Specification [Show more detail](#)

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
1	Identification in healthcare cluster	Optional	1
2	Individual name cluster	Optional	1
3	Individual demographic identifiers cluster	Optional	1
4	Address group cluster	Optional	1
5	Electronic address cluster	Optional	1
6	Healthcare provider qualification and registration cluster	Optional	1
7	Healthcare provider organisation cluster	Optional	1
8	Biometric identifiers cluster	Optional	1