

# Initial health check

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# Initial health check

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Glossary Item

**Synonymous names:** Health check

**METEOR identifier:** 532593

**Registration status:** [Children and Families](#), Standard 22/11/2016

**Definition:** Initial health checks aim to ensure children and young people receive effective and coordinated health care upon entering the care of the Minister/Chief Executive. Checks are conducted by a health professional and aim to identify any significant health issues and any follow up treatment or specialist referrals required.

Health professionals may conduct assessments across four domains: physical (e.g. health, nutrition, dental, vision and hearing); developmental; psychosocial; and mental health. The following types of assessment are usually included as part of initial health checks:

- Medical exam/health assessment by a GP
- Dental exam
- Health needs and health assessment (e.g. consultation with existing health service providers)
- Immunisation status
- Nurse health and development assessment, including oral health
- Mental health.

**Context:** The number and proportion of children and young people who have an initial health check of their physical, developmental, psychosocial and mental health needs within a specified period of entering out-of-home care is a measure under the National Standards for Out-of-Home Care. These standards state:

'Children and young people entering care are to have their health needs assessed and receive specialised services to respond to their health challenges, so that their chances for optimum health are maximised. The child or young person's physical, developmental and psychosocial and mental health needs are to be identified in a preliminary health check. This will provide advice on the specialist services required and the timing of a comprehensive health and developmental assessment. Children and young people are to have their own written health record which moves with them if they change placements' (FaHCSIA 2011).

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Research, Evaluation and Data Working Group (REDWG).

**Origin:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) 2013. Child protection national minimum data set, data collection manual 2012-13. AIHW: Canberra.

**Reference documents:** FaHCSIA (Australian Government Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs) 2011. An outline of national standards for out-of-home care: A priority project under the National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020. Canberra: FaHCSIA.

## Relational attributes

**Metadata items which use  
this glossary item:**

[Child—initial health check conducted indicator](#)

[Children and Families, Standard 22/11/2016](#)

[Community Services \(retired\), Recorded 16/10/2014](#)

[Child—initial health check conducted indicator, yes/no/not applicable/not  
stated/inadequately described code N](#)

[Children and Families, Standard 22/11/2016](#)

[Community Services \(retired\), Recorded 16/10/2014](#)

[Child—initial health check required indicator](#)

[Children and Families, Standard 22/11/2016](#)

[Community Services \(retired\), Recorded 16/10/2014](#)

[Child—initial health check required indicator, yes/no/not applicable/not  
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[Children and Families, Standard 22/11/2016](#)

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[Initial health check conducted indicator](#)

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[Initial health check required indicator](#)

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