

# 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:** 534063

**Registration status:** [Health](#), Superseded 18/12/2019  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 19/06/2020

**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.

**Context:** Mental health care:

This metadata item is required to monitor trends in the use of compulsory treatment provisions under state and territory mental health legislation by Australian hospitals and community health care facilities, including 24-hour community based residential services. For those hospitals and community mental health services which provide psychiatric treatment to involuntary patients, mental health legal status information is an essential metadata item within local record systems.

**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

	<b>Value</b>	<b>Meaning</b>
<b>Permissible values:</b>	1	Involuntary patient
	2	Voluntary patient
<b>Supplementary values:</b>	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.

Approval is required under the state or territory mental health legislation in order to detain patients in hospital for the provision of compulsory mental health care or for patients to be treated compulsorily in the community.

**Collection methods:**

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

**Residents** in **residential mental health services** are 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 are 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 07/03/2014

Has been superseded by [Episode of care—mental health legal status, code N Health](#), Superseded 20/01/2021

[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 16/10/2023

Is used in the formation of [Episode of admitted patient care—diagnosis related group, code \(AR-DRG v 9.0\) ANNA](#)

[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 19/06/2020

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:**

[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

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2017-18](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2017  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2018

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2018-19](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2019-20](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 18/12/2019  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2020

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2014-15](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 04/02/2015  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2014  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2015

[Admitted patient mental health care NMDS 2015-16](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 19/11/2015  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2015  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2016

[Community mental health care NMDS 2014-15](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 13/11/2014  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2014  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2015

[Community mental health care NMDS 2015-16](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 04/09/2015  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2015  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2016

[Community mental health care NMDS 2016-17](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 17/08/2017  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2016  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2017

[Community mental health care NMDS 2017–18](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2017  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2018

[Community mental health care NMDS 2018–19](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019  
[Community mental health care NMDS 2019–20](#)  
Health, Superseded 16/01/2020  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2020

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2014-15](#)  
Health, Superseded 13/11/2014  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2014  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2015

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2015-16](#)  
Health, Superseded 04/09/2015  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2015  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2016

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2016-17](#)  
Health, Superseded 17/08/2017  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2016  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2017

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2017–18](#)  
Health, Superseded 25/01/2018  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2017  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2018

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2018–19](#)  
Health, Superseded 12/12/2018  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2019–20](#)  
Health, Superseded 16/01/2020  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2020

[Tasmanian Admitted Patient Data Set - 2018](#)  
Tasmanian Health, Superseded 12/04/2019  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019

[Tasmanian Admitted Patient Data Set - 2019](#)  
Tasmanian Health, Superseded 17/06/2020  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2020