

Seclusion

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Glossary Item
METEOR identifier:	557975
Registration status:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Health, Standard 13/11/2014
Definition:	The confinement of the consumer/patient at any time of the day or night alone in a room or area from which free exit is prevented.
Context:	Mental health care.

Collection and usage attributes

Comments:	<p>Key elements of seclusion include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The consumer/patient is alone.• The seclusion applies at any time of the day or night.• Duration is not relevant in determining what is or is not seclusion.• The consumer cannot leave of their own accord. <p>Implications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The intended purpose (or purposes) of the confinement is not relevant in determining what is or is not seclusion.• Seclusion applies even if the consumer/patient agrees to or requests the confinement.• The awareness of the consumer that they are confined alone and denied exit is not relevant in determining what is or is not seclusion.• The structure and dimensions of the area to which the consumer is confined is not relevant in determining what is or is not seclusion. The area may be an open area, e.g. a courtyard.• Seclusion does not include confinement of consumers to High Dependency sections of gazetted mental health units, unless it meets the local legislative definition.
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Note: A consumer can request voluntary isolation or quiet time alone. This voluntary social isolation, or 'time out', is not considered to be seclusion as long as exit is not restricted and the consumer can leave at any time. However, if exit is restricted and the consumer is not free to leave at any time, then this is regarded as seclusion.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
Origin:	National Documentation Outputs from the National Mental Health Seclusion and Restraint Project

Reference documents: Aggression, Seclusion and Restraint in Mental Health Facilities in NSW (PD2012_035)

Mental Health Act 2014 (Vic)

Mental Health Act 2000 (Qld)

Mental Health Act 2009 (SA)

Mental Health Act 1996 (WA)

Mental Health Act 2013 (Tas)

Mental Health and Related Services Act 2012 (NT)

Mental Health Treatment and Care Act 1994 (ACT)

Relational attributes

Metadata items which use this glossary item:

[Mental health seclusion and restraint NBEDS 2015-](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 13/11/2014

[Specialised mental health service—number of episodes with seclusion](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 13/11/2014

[Specialised mental health service—number of episodes with seclusion, total episodes N\[NNNN\]](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 13/11/2014

[Specialised mental health service—number of seclusion events](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 13/11/2014

[Specialised mental health service—number of seclusion events, total number N\[NNN\]](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 13/11/2014

[Specialised mental health service—seclusion duration](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 13/11/2014

[Specialised mental health service—seclusion duration, total hours NNNNN](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 13/11/2014