

# Episode of care—principal diagnosis, code (ICD-10-AM 10th edn) ANN{.N[N]}

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# Episode of care—principal diagnosis, code (ICD-10-AM 10th edn) ANN{.N[N]}

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Element
<b>Short name:</b>	Principal diagnosis
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	680976
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Health</a> , Superseded 12/12/2018 <a href="#">Tasmanian Health</a> , Superseded 08/04/2019
<b>Definition:</b>	The diagnosis established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning an episode of admitted patient care, an episode of residential care or an attendance at the health care establishment, as represented by a code.
<b>Data Element Concept:</b>	<a href="#">Episode of care—principal diagnosis</a>
<b>Value Domain:</b>	<a href="#">Diagnosis code (ICD-10-AM 10th edn) ANN{.N[N]}</a>

## Value domain attributes

### Representational attributes

<b>Classification scheme:</b>	<a href="#">International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification 10th edition</a>
<b>Representation class:</b>	Code
<b>Data type:</b>	String
<b>Format:</b>	ANN{.N[N]}
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	6

## Data element attributes

### Collection and usage attributes

<b>Guide for use:</b>	<p>The principal diagnosis must be determined in accordance with the Australian Coding Standards. Each episode of admitted patient care must have a principal diagnosis and may have additional diagnoses. The diagnosis can include a disease, condition, injury, poisoning, sign, symptom, abnormal finding, complaint, or other factor influencing health status.</p> <p>As a minimum requirement the Principal diagnosis code must be a valid code from the current edition of the <i>International statistical classification of diseases and related health problems, 10th revision, Australian modification</i> (ICD-10-AM).</p> <p>For episodes of admitted patient care, some diagnosis codes are too imprecise or inappropriate to be acceptable as a principal diagnosis and will group to an error DRG in the Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups.</p> <p>Diagnosis codes starting with a V, W, X or Y, describing the circumstances that cause an injury, rather than the nature of the injury, cannot be used as a principal diagnosis. Diagnosis codes which are morphology codes cannot be used as a principal diagnosis.</p>
<b>Collection methods:</b>	A principal diagnosis should be recorded and coded upon <a href="#">separation</a> , for each episode of admitted patient care or episode of residential care or attendance at a health-care establishment. The principal diagnosis is derived from and must be substantiated by clinical documentation.

**Comments:** The principal diagnosis is one of the most valuable health data elements. It is used for epidemiological research, casemix studies and planning purposes.

## Source and reference attributes

**Origin:** Australian Consortium for Classification Development  
National Data Standard for Injury Surveillance Advisory Group

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [Episode of care—principal diagnosis, code \(ICD-10-AM 10th edn\) ANN{,N\[N\]}](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018  
[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Recorded 04/08/2016  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 08/04/2019

Has been superseded by [Episode of care—principal diagnosis, code \(ICD-10-AM 11th edn\) ANN{,N\[N\]}](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 20/10/2021  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 17/10/2023

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

See also [Episode of care—additional diagnosis, code \(ICD-10-AM 10th edn\) ANN{,N\[N\]}](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 08/04/2019

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:** [Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2018-19](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019

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

The principal diagnosis is a major determinant in the classification of Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups and Major Diagnostic Categories.

Where the principal diagnosis is recorded prior to discharge (as in the annual census of public psychiatric hospital patients), it is the current provisional principal diagnosis. Only use the admission diagnosis when no other diagnostic information is available. The current provisional diagnosis may be the same as the admission diagnosis.

[Community 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 2018–19](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018  
**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2018  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2019  
**DSS specific information:**

Codes can be used from ICD-10-AM or from The ICD-10-AM Mental Health Manual: An Integrated Classification and Diagnostic Tool for Community-Based Mental Health Services, published by the National Centre for Classification in Health 2002.

The principal diagnosis should be recorded and coded upon the end of an episode of residential care (i.e. annually for continuing residential care).

**Implementation in Indicators:**

**Used as Numerator**

[Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.1.4–Selected potentially preventable hospitalisations, 2020](#)

[Health](#), Standard 01/12/2020

[Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 3.1.1–Incidence of heart attacks \(acute coronary events\), 2020](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 07/09/2023

[Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 3.1.1–Incidence of heart attacks \(acute coronary events\), 2021](#)

[Health](#), Qualified 28/06/2024

[Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 3.1.1–Incidence of heart attacks \(acute coronary events\), 2022](#)

[Health](#), Qualified 28/06/2024

[Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 3.1.5–Hospitalisation for injury and poisoning, 2020](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 07/09/2023

[Heavy menstrual bleeding clinical care standard indicators: 8-Hospital rate of hysterectomy per 100 episodes](#)

[Health](#), Standard 17/10/2018

[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, 2021](#)

[Health](#), Standard 16/09/2020

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 09–Incidence of heart attacks \(acute coronary events\), 2021](#)

[Health](#), Standard 16/09/2020

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 09–Incidence of heart attacks \(acute coronary events\), 2022](#)

[Health](#), Standard 24/09/2021

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 18–Selected potentially preventable hospitalisations, 2021](#)

[Health](#), Standard 16/09/2020

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 23–Unplanned hospital readmission rates, 2021](#)

[Health](#), Standard 19/11/2020

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 27–Number of hospital patient days used by those eligible and waiting for residential aged care, 2021](#)

[Health](#), Standard 16/09/2020

[Number of lumbar spinal decompression \(excluding lumbar spinal fusion\) hospitalisations per 100,000 people aged 18 years and over, 2012-13 to 2014-15 and 2015-16 to 2017-18](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](#), Standard 27/04/2021

[Number of lumbar spinal fusion \(excluding lumbar spinal decompression\) hospitalisations per 100,000 people, aged 18 years and over, 2012-13 to 2014-15 and 2015-16 to 2017-18](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](#), Standard 27/04/2021

[Number of lumbar spinal fusion \(with or without lumbar spinal decompression\) hospitalisations per 100,000 people, aged 18 years and over, 2012-13 to 2014-15 and 2015-16 to 2017-18](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](#), Standard 27/04/2021

**Used as Disaggregation**

[Number of lumbar spinal decompression \(excluding lumbar spinal fusion\) hospitalisations per 100,000 people aged 18 years and over, 2012-13 to 2014-15 and 2015-16 to 2017-18](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care](#), Standard 27/04/2021

**Used as Denominator**

[Heavy menstrual bleeding clinical care standard indicators: 8-Hospital rate of hysterectomy per 100 episodes](#)

[Health, Standard 17/10/2018](#)

[Third and Fourth Degree Perineal Tears Clinical Care Standard: 3b-Proportion of women who had an instrumental vaginal birth using forceps](#)

[Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, Standard 20/04/2021](#)