

# Episode of care—principal diagnosis, code (ICD-10-AM 11th 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>	699609
<b>Registration status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Health</a>, Superseded 20/10/2021</li><li>• <a href="#">Tasmanian Health</a>, Standard 08/04/2019</li></ul>
<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>

## Value domain attributes

### Representational attributes

<b>Classification scheme:</b>	<a href="#">International Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, Tenth Revision, Australian Modification 11th 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:** Is used in the formation of [Episode of admitted patient care—diagnosis related group, code \(AR-DRG v 10.0\) ANNA](#)

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

See also [Episode of care—additional diagnosis, code \(ICD-10-AM 11th edn\) ANN{,N\[N\]}](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 20/10/2021
- [Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 08/04/2019

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

- [ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate 09/08/2018
- [Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018
- [Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 08/04/2019

Has been superseded by [Episode of care—principal diagnosis, code \(ICD-10-AM 12th edn\) ANN{,N\[N\]}](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 20/10/2021

## Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2019-20Health](#), Superseded 17/01/2020

*Implementation start date:* 01/07/2019

*Implementation end date:* 30/06/2020

[Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2020-21Health](#), Superseded 23/12/2020

*Implementation start date:* 01/07/2020

*Implementation end date:* 30/06/2021

[Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2021-22Health](#), Superseded 17/12/2021

*Implementation start date:* 01/07/2021

*Implementation end date:* 30/06/2022

[Admitted patient care clinical related data elements \(TDLU\) clusterTasmanian Health](#), Standard 18/05/2021

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2019-20Health](#), Superseded 18/12/2019

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2020

**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.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2020-21Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2020

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2021

**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.

[Admitted patient care NMDS 2021-22Health](#), Superseded 20/10/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2021

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2022

**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.

[Allied health admitted patient care NBPDSHealth](#), Standard 12/12/2018

[Community mental health care NMDS 2019–20Health](#), Superseded 16/01/2020

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2020

[Community mental health care NMDS 2020–21Health](#), Superseded 20/01/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2020

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2021

[Community mental health care NMDS 2021–22Health](#), Superseded 17/12/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2021

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2022

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2019–20Health](#), Superseded 16/01/2020

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2020

**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).

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2020–21Health](#), Superseded 20/01/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2020

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2021

**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).

[Residential mental health care NMDS 2021–22Health](#), Superseded 17/12/2021

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2021

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2022

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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).

[Tasmanian Admitted Patient Data Set - 2019 Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded  
17/06/2020

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2019

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2020

[Tasmanian Admitted Patient Data Set - 2020 Tasmanian Health](#), Standard  
10/07/2020

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2020

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2021

**Implementation in Indicators:**

**Used as Numerator**

[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, 2022Health](#), Standard 24/09/2021

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 09–Incidence of heart attacks \(acute coronary events\), 2022Health](#), Standard 24/09/2021

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 18–Selected potentially preventable hospitalisations, 2022Health](#), Standard 24/09/2021

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 27–Number of hospital patient days used by those eligible and waiting for residential aged care, 2022Health](#), Standard 24/09/2021