

Person—level of psychiatric symptom severity, Health of the Nation Outcome Scale score code N

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Person—level of psychiatric symptom severity, Health of the Nation Outcome Scale score code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Level of psychiatric symptom severity (HoNOS score)
METEOR identifier:	748290
Registration status:	Health , Standard 09/12/2022
Definition:	An assessment of the severity of a person's psychiatric symptoms, as represented by a Health of the Nation Outcome Scale (HoNOS) score-based code.
Context:	Psychiatric symptom severity, persons aged 18 to 64 years.
Data Element Concept:	Person—level of psychiatric symptom severity
Value Domain:	Health of the Nation Outcome Scale score code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	N
Maximum character length:	1

	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	0	No problems within the period stated
	1	Minor problem requiring no action
	2	Mild problem but definitely present
	3	Moderately severe problem
	4	Severe to very severe problem
Supplementary values:	7	Not stated/Missing
	9	Unable to rate because not known or not applicable to the consumer

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

The Health of the Nation Outcome Scale (HoNOS) is used to rate adult mental health service users. Together, the scales rate various aspects of mental and social health.

HoNOS is answered on an item-specific anchored 5-point scoring scale which is used to score and thereby determine the scale of the individual psychiatric symptoms outlined in the HoNOS. Higher scores indicate problems of greater severity. The psychiatric symptom scales are assigned a value between 0 and 4, with supplementary values of 7 and 9 where a value cannot be assigned due to it being not stated, missing or unable to be rated for other reasons. The twelve scales are as follows:

1. Behavioural disturbance
2. Non-accidental self injury
3. Problem drinking or drug use
4. Cognitive problems
5. Problems related to physical illness or disability
6. Problems associated with hallucinations and delusions
7. Problems associated with depressive symptoms
8. Other mental and behavioural problems
9. Problems with social or supportive relationships
10. Problems with activities of daily living
11. Overall problems with living conditions
12. Problems with work and leisure activities and the quality of the daytime environment.

The sum of the individual scores of each of the scales (excluding supplementary values 7: Not stated/Missing and 9: Unable to rate because not known or not applicable to the consumer) represents the total HoNOS score. The total HoNOS score ranges from 0 to 48, and represents the overall severity of an individual's psychiatric symptoms.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Data element attributes

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Reference documents: Royal College of Psychiatrists 2022. Health of the Nation Outcome Scales (HoNOS), Viewed 26 July 2022, <https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/events/in-house-training/health-of-nation-outcome-scales>

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Person—level of psychiatric symptom severity, Health of the Nation Outcome Scale score code N](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 09/12/2022

See also [Person—level of psychiatric symptom severity, Health of the Nation Outcome Scale 65+ score code N](#)
[Health](#), Standard 20/12/2022
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 23/11/2023

See also [Person—level of psychiatric symptom severity, Health of the Nation Outcome Scale for Children and Adolescents score code N](#)
[Health](#), Standard 09/12/2022

See also [Person—level of psychiatric symptom severity, Health of the Nation Outcome Scale other type code A](#)
[Health](#), Standard 09/12/2022

Implementation in Data Set [Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2023–24](#)

Specifications:

[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2023

Implementation end date: 30/06/2024

Conditional obligation:

Reporting of the HoNOS at the start of the mental health phase of care is mandatory for patients in all settings.

Reporting of the HoNOS is not mandatory if the response to [Episode of care—clinical assessment only indicator, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described, code N](#) is CODE 1 'Yes'.

The HoNOS should only be reported for patients aged 18 years to 64 years.

[Activity based funding: Mental health care NBEDS 2024–25](#)

[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2024

Implementation end date: 30/06/2025

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[National Outcomes and Casemix Collection NBEDS 2023-24](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2023

Implementation end date: 30/06/2024

Conditional obligation:

In the National Outcomes and Casemix Collection (NOCC) NBEDS, this data element should be collected where:

Setting: inpatient, residential or ambulatory

Occasion: admission, review, and discharge*

Age group: adults or older persons

* Discharge ratings for the Health of the Nation Outcome Scale (HoNOS) are not required by the ambulatory service or the consumer respectively, when the reason for the closure of the ambulatory episode is transfer to a bed-based treatment service setting of that organisation (i.e., psychiatric inpatient or community residential service). Where possible, the HoNOS ratings for admission in the inpatient unit or the community residential care setting are reported as the consumer's discharge ratings from the ambulatory episode.

Discharge ratings for the HoNOS are not required for brief ambulatory episode of mental health care, where the number of days between admission to and discharge from the episode of care is 14 days or less duration.

Discharge ratings for the HoNOS are not required for inpatient episodes of 3 days or less duration.

For more information on setting, occasion, or age groups, see the [NOCC collection protocol](#) (Australian Mental Health Outcomes and Classifications Network, 2022).

[National Outcomes and Casemix Collection NBEDS 2024-25](#)

[Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2024

Implementation end date: 30/06/2025

Conditional obligation:

In the National Outcomes and Casemix Collection (NOCC) NBEDS, this data element should be collected where:

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Occasion: admission, review, and discharge*

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Discharge ratings for the HoNOS are not required for inpatient episodes of 3 days or less duration.

For more information on setting, occasion, or age groups, see the [NOCC collection protocol](#) (Australian Mental Health Outcomes and Classifications Network, 2022).

**Implementation in
Indicators:**

Used as Numerator

[KPIs for Australian Public Mental Health Services: PI 01J – Change in mental health consumer's clinical outcomes, 2024](#)

[Health](#), Recorded 07/03/2024