

Sentinel events NBEDS

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Data Set Specification

METEOR identifier: 759410

Registration status:

- [Health](#), Qualified 02/08/2022

DSS type: Data Set Specification (DSS)

Scope: The scope of the Sentinel event national best endeavours data set (SE NBEDS) is to collect data about [sentinel events](#) experienced by patients in government health establishments. A sentinel event is a particular type of serious incident that is wholly preventable and has caused serious harm to, or the death of, a patient.

To be classified a sentinel event, a strict set of criteria need to be met:

- The event should not have occurred where preventive barriers are available
- The event is easily recognised and clearly defined
- There is evidence the event has occurred in the past.

Sentinel events are further specified into eight events:

1. Haemolytic blood transfusion reaction resulting from ABO (blood group) incompatibility
2. Infant discharge to the wrong family
3. Intravascular gas embolism resulting in death or neurological damage
4. Maternal death associated with pregnancy, birth or the puerperium
5. Medication error leading to the death of a patient reasonably believed to be due to incorrect administration of drugs
6. Procedures involving the wrong patient or body part resulting in death or major permanent loss of function
7. Retained instruments or other material after surgery requiring re-operation or further surgical procedure
8. Suicide of a patient in an inpatient unit.

The list of specified events corresponds to what is listed in the Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services (RoGS) (PC 2022)*

The SE NBEDS supports the collection of data for the indicator *Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.2.3–Sentinel events*.

Collection and usage attributes

Statistical unit: A government health [establishment](#).

Guide for use: The SE NBEDS comprises two principal data elements that, in combination, describe the total number and types of sentinel events occurring in a government health establishment. They are collected together and reported as the number of sentinel events occurring during the collection period against each reported type of event.

A third data element reports on the State/Territory to which the data relates.

Collection methods: *National reporting requirements*

State and territory health authorities provide the data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for national collation, on an annual basis.

The collection of sentinel events data is the responsibility of the health authorities in each of the states and territories. Public reporting against the sentinel events list is included in the Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services* (RoGS) (PC 2022) as the total number of occurrences of each sentinel event by jurisdiction.

All counts of sentinel events are published at the national, and state and territory level, with the exception of ACT (where the number of events is small and publishing this information might risk exposing the identities of persons involved).

The period for which data are collected and nationally collated is financial years ending 30 June each year.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Reference documents: ACSQHC (Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care) 2018. Australian sentinel events list (version 2) - Development and specifications. Canberra: ACSQHC. Viewed 22 June 2022, <https://www.safetyandquality.gov.au/publications-and-resources/resource-library/australian-sentinel-events-list-version-2-development-and-specifications>

PC (Productivity Commission) (2022) Report on Government Services. Canberra: PC. Viewed 22 June 2022, <https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services>

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: See also [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.2.3–Sentinel events, 2020](#)

- [Health](#), Qualified 16/02/2022

Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Establishment—Australian state/territory identifier, code N	Mandatory	1
-	Establishment—number of sentinel events, total N[NNN]	Mandatory	8
-	Establishment—type of sentinel event, code N	Mandatory	8

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2015–2022

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 3.0 (CC BY 3.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build upon this work. However, you must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder of the work in compliance with our attribution policy available at www.aihw.gov.au/copyright. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by3.0/au/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to the Head of the Communications, Media and Marketing Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601.