

Episode of mental health care—service delivery setting, code N

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Episode of mental health care—service delivery setting, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Episode service setting
METEOR identifier:	763245
Registration status:	Health , Standard 09/12/2022
Definition:	The type of setting for delivery of service for an episode of mental health care, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Episode of mental health care—service delivery setting
Value Domain:	Episode of mental health care service setting code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	String	
Format:	N	
Maximum character length:	1	
Permissible values:	Value	Meaning
	1	Psychiatric inpatient service
	2	Community residential mental health service
	3	Ambulatory mental health service

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:**CODE 1 Psychiatric inpatient service**

Refers to overnight care provided in public psychiatric hospitals and designated psychiatric units in public acute hospitals. Psychiatric hospitals are establishments devoted primarily to the treatment and care of admitted patients with psychiatric, mental, or behavioural disorders. Designated psychiatric units in a public acute hospital are staffed by health professionals with specialist mental health qualifications or training and have as their principal function the treatment and care of patients affected by a mental health disorder. For the purposes of the National Outcomes and Casemix Collection (NOCC), care provided by an [ambulatory mental health care service](#) team to a person admitted to a designated special care suite or 'rooming-in' facility within a community general hospital for treatment of a mental or behavioural disorder is also included under this setting.

CODE 2 Community residential mental health service

Refers to overnight care provided in residential units staffed on a 24-hour basis by health professionals with specialist mental health qualifications or training and established in a community setting which provides specialised treatment, rehabilitation or care for people affected by a mental illness or psychiatric disability. Psychogeriatric hostels and psychogeriatric nursing homes are included in this category.

CODE 3 Ambulatory mental health service

Refers to non-admitted, non-residential services provided by health professionals with specialist mental health qualifications or training. Ambulatory mental health services include community-based crisis assessment and treatment teams, day programs, psychiatric outpatient clinics provided by either hospital or community-based services, child and adolescent outpatient and community teams, social and living skills programs, psychogeriatric assessment services and so forth. For the purposes of the NOCC, care provided by hospital-based consultation-liaison services to admitted patients in non-psychiatric and hospital emergency settings is also included under this setting.

A single service unit may provide care in all three settings. For example, a psychiatric hospital may provide group programs tailored for people living in the community who attend on a regular basis or run a community nursing outreach service that visits people in the homes. It is essential that these programs be differentiated when reporting this item that is providing the episode of care, even though all programs may share the same 'Service Unit Identifier'. For example, in the above scenario, where a consumer who is not currently an overnight admitted patient attends the hospital-based group program, the 'Episode Service Setting' should be recorded as Ambulatory mental health service, NOT Psychiatric inpatient service.

Where a person might be considered as receiving concurrently two or more episodes of mental health care by virtue of being treated in more than one setting simultaneously the following order of precedence applies: Inpatient, Community Residential, Ambulatory.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Data element attributes**Source and reference attributes**

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Implementation in Data Set Specifications: [National Outcomes and Casemix Collection NMDS 2023-24](#)
[Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

Implementation start date: 01/07/2023

Implementation end date: 30/06/2024

DSS specific information:

For the National Outcomes and Casemix Collection (NOCC), this data element is intended to describe the setting in which care took place, regardless of the formal designation of that service unit type.

It does not have to correspond to the service unit type ([Specialised mental health service organisation—service delivery setting, code N](#)) data element reported on the [collection occasion](#) record. The service unit type item is an attribute of the service unit, and this data element is an attribute of the episode of mental health care.

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

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

Implementation start date: 01/07/2024

Implementation end date: 30/06/2025

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