

Sentinel events NBEDS 2019-

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Sentinel events NBEDS 2019-

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type: Data Set Specification

METEOR identifier: 774550

Registration status: [Health](#), Standard 07/09/2023

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 an incident that is **wholly preventable** and has caused **serious harm** to, or the **death** of, a patient.

To be classified a sentinel event, strict 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.

Sentinel events are further specified into eight events:

1. Surgery or other invasive procedure performed on the wrong site resulting in serious harm or death
2. Surgery or other invasive procedure performed on the wrong patient resulting in serious harm or death
3. Wrong surgical or other invasive procedure performed on a patient resulting in serious harm or death
4. Unintended retention of a foreign object in a patient after surgery or other invasive procedure resulting in serious harm or death
5. Haemolytic blood transfusion reaction resulting from ABO incompatibility resulting in serious harm or death
6. Suspected suicide of a patient in an acute psychiatric unit or acute psychiatric ward
7. Medication error resulting in serious harm or death
8. Use of physical or mechanical restraint resulting in serious harm or death
9. Discharge or release of an infant or child to an unauthorised person.
10. Use of an incorrectly positioned oro- or naso- gastric tube resulting in serious harm or death.

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.

Implementation start date: 01/07/2019

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: Supersedes [Sentinel events NBEDS 2004–2019](#) Health, Standard 20/12/2022

See also [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.2.3–Sentinel events, 2021](#) Health, Standard 07/09/2023

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	10
DSS specific information:			
In the Sentinel events NBEDS, data is collected for government health establishments.			
-	Establishment—type of sentinel event, code N[N]	Mandatory	10