

Episode of admitted patient care—unplanned return to operating theatre flag, yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Unplanned return to operating theatre
METEOR identifier:	783891
Registration status:	Health , Qualified 14/12/2023
Definition:	A flag indicating whether an unplanned return to operating theatre has occurred during an episode of admitted patient care, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Episode of admitted patient care—unplanned return to operating theatre flag
Value Domain:	Yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	Boolean	
Format:	N	
Maximum character length:	1	
	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Yes
	2	No
Supplementary values:	9	Not stated/inadequately described

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	CODE 9 Not stated/inadequately described
	This code is not for use in primary data collections.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation:	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
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Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

CODE 1 Yes

Code 1 is used where the patient had one or more [unplanned returns to operating theatre](#).

CODE 2 No

Code 2 is used where the patient did not have any 'unplanned returns to an operating theatre.'

CODE 9 Not stated/inadequately described.

Code 9 is used where it is uncertain or inadequately documented in the primary data collection whether the patient had an 'unplanned return to an operating theatre' or not.

An 'unplanned return to an operating theatre' is defined as having occurred where:

- A patient has undergone an initial procedure in an [operating theatre](#), endoscopy suite, or cardiac catheter laboratory during an episode of admitted patient care.
- A clinical decision has been made that a complication has occurred during or as a result of the initial procedure.
- The patient has undergone a procedure in an operating theatre as a result of the complication (the 'return to an operating theatre'.)
- The return to an operating theatre occurred during the same episode of admitted patient care as the initial procedure.

The return to an operating theatre may be performed by the same surgeon or a different surgeon as the initial procedure. There is no defined postoperative period within which the return needs to occur, but it needs to occur within the same episode of admitted patient care.

Returns to an operating theatre are not included where the subsequent procedure was planned and documented prospectively at the time of the original procedure (for example, staged procedures).

'Return to an operating theatre' in this context is defined to include cases where the initial procedure did not occur in an operating theatre (i.e. in an endoscopy suite, or cardiac catheter laboratory.) However, returns to an endoscopy suite, or cardiac catheter laboratory are not included. The 'return' procedure needs to have occurred in an operating theatre.

The following initial procedures are not included:

- initial procedures that occur in an [emergency department](#) or intensive care unit (ICU)
- initial procedures that occur in an delivery suite, as well as assisted deliveries performed in an operating theatre
- initial procedures that occur in a radiology suite.

Returns to an operating theatre involving [contracted hospital care](#) are only included when both the initial procedure and the return procedure occur in the same episode of admitted patient care (i.e. at the contracted hospital). Cases where multiple episodes of admitted patient care are involved (i.e. where the initial procedure occurs in the contracted hospital, and the return procedure occurs in the contracting hospital) are not included.

Comments:

This data element is intended to help in the investigation of hospital-acquired complications (HACs), however on its own it is insufficient to identify a HAC. It may be used to derive an initial data set which may then be analysed for potential HACs.

It is noted that this data element is limited to unplanned returns to an operating theatre which occur during a single episode of admitted patient care. Future versions of the element could potentially adapt this flag to include subsequent episodes of care occurring in multiple facilities or multiple episodes of care within the same hospital, however this will require developments in local systems and/or data linkage.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Episode of admitted patient care—unplanned return to operating theatre indicator, Yes/no/not stated/inadequately described code N](#)
[Health](#), Standard 04/09/2015