

Glossary

For further information on the terms used in this report, refer to the definitions in use in the 1999–00 collection from the *National Health Data Dictionary* Version 8.0 (NHDC 1999). Each definition contains an identification number (ID) given in the Knowledgebase or Australia's Health and Community Services Data Registry. The Knowledgebase is an electronic storage site for Australian health, community services, housing and related data definitions and standards. It provides definitions for data and performance indicators for health- and community services-related topics, and specifications for related National Minimum Data Sets (NMDSs), such as the NMDS for Institutional Health Care, which forms a major basis of this report. The Knowledgebase can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.aihw.gov.au/knowledgebase/index.html>

<i>Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status</i>	Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander status of the person according to the following definition: An Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander is a person of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent who identifies as an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and is accepted as such by the community with which he or she lives. Knowledgebase ID: 000001
<i>Activity while injured</i>	The type of activity being undertaken by the person when injured. Knowledgebase ID: 000002
<i>Acute</i>	Having a short and relatively severe course.
<i>Acute care</i>	See <i>Type of episode of care</i> .
<i>Acute care hospitals</i>	See <i>Establishment type</i> .
<i>Additional diagnosis</i>	Conditions or complaints either coexisting with the principal diagnosis or arising during the episode of care. Additional diagnoses give information on factors that result in increased length of stay, more intensive treatment or the use of greater resources. Knowledgebase ID: 000005
<i>Administrative and clerical staff</i>	See <i>Full time equivalent staff</i> .
<i>Administrative expenditure</i>	All expenditure incurred by establishments (but not central administrations) of a management expense/administrative support nature, such as any rates and taxes, printing, telephone, stationery and insurance expenses (including workers' compensation). Knowledgebase ID: 000244
<i>Admitted patient</i>	A patient who undergoes a hospital's formal admission process. Knowledgebase ID: 000011
<i>Admitted patient cost proportion</i>	The ratio of admitted patient costs to total hospital costs, also known as the in-patient fraction or IFRAC.
<i>Alcohol and drug treatment centre</i>	See <i>Establishment type</i> .

<i>Australian Refined Diagnosis Related Groups (AR-DRGs)</i>	An Australian system of Diagnosis Related Groups (DRGs). DRGs provide a clinically meaningful way of relating the number and type of patients treated in a hospital (that is, its casemix) to the resources required by the hospital. Each AR-DRG represents a class of patients with similar clinical conditions requiring similar hospital services.
<i>Available beds</i>	Beds immediately available for use by admitted patients as required. Knowledgebase ID: 000255
<i>Average length of stay</i>	The average number of patient days for admitted patient episodes. Patients admitted and separated on the same day are allocated a length of stay of one day. Knowledgebase ID: 000119
<i>Boarder</i>	A person who is receiving food and/or accommodation but for whom the hospital does not accept responsibility for treatment and/or care. A boarder is not admitted to the hospital, although a hospital may register a boarder. Knowledgebase ID: 000065
<i>Compensable patients</i>	Those patients entitled to, or who have been paid, compensation, damages, or other benefits in respect of the injury, illness or disease for which they have received care or treatment. Knowledgebase ID: 000026
<i>Cost weights</i>	Cost weights represent the costliness of an AR-DRG relative to all other AR-DRGs such that the average cost weight for all separations is 1.00. A separation for an AR-DRG with a cost weight of 5.0 therefore, on average, costs 10 times as much as a separation with a cost weight of 0.5. There are separate cost weights for AR-DRGs in the public and private sectors, reflecting the differences in the range of costs in the different sectors. The cost weights used in this report are 1998–99 national public and private cost weights for AR-DRGs v4.0/4.1.
<i>Diagnostic and health professionals</i>	See <i>Full time equivalent staff</i> .
<i>Domestic and other staff</i>	See <i>Full time equivalent staff</i> .
<i>Domestic services expenditure</i>	The costs of all domestic services, including electricity, other fuel and power, domestic services for staff, accommodation and kitchen expenses but not including salaries and wages, food costs or equipment replacement and repair costs. Knowledgebase ID: 000241
<i>Drug supplies expenditure</i>	The cost of all drugs, including the cost of containers. Knowledgebase ID: 000238
<i>Eligible Department of Veterans' Affairs patient</i>	An eligible person whose charges for the hospital admission are met by the Department of Veterans' Affairs. These data are as supplied by the States and Territories and the eligibility to receive hospital treatment as a Department of Veterans' Affairs patient may not necessarily have been confirmed by the department. Knowledgebase ID: 000118
<i>Eligible other patient</i>	An eligible person who does not meet the criteria to be an eligible public, private or Department of Veterans' Affairs patient. This category includes compensable patients, patients with Australian Defence Force personnel entitlements, and common law cases. Knowledgebase ID: 000118

<i>Eligible person</i>	<p>Under the Australian Health Care Agreements, an eligible person means a person who resides in Australia and whose stay in Australia is not subject to any limitation as to time imposed by law. Except where they are covered by reciprocal health care agreements, foreign diplomats and their families and persons visiting Australia are excluded.</p> <p>Knowledgebase ID: 000118</p>
<i>Eligible private patient</i>	<p>An eligible person who:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • on admission to a public hospital or soon after, elects to be a private patient treated by a medical practitioner of his or her choice, or elects to occupy a bed in a single room. Such a private patient is responsible for meeting certain hospital charges as well as the professional charges raised by any treating medical or dental practitioner; or • chooses to be admitted to a private hospital. Such a private patient is responsible for meeting all hospital charges as well as the professional charges raised by any treating medical or dental practitioner. <p>Knowledgebase ID: 000118</p>
<i>Eligible public patient</i>	<p>An eligible person who, on admission to a public hospital or soon after, elects to be a public patient, or an eligible public patient whose treatment is contracted to a private hospital. A public patient is entitled to receive care and treatment without charge.</p> <p>Knowledgebase ID: 000118</p>
<i>Enrolled nurses</i>	<p>See <i>Full time equivalent staff</i>.</p>
<i>Episode of care</i>	<p>An episode of care is a phase of treatment for an admitted patient. It may correspond to a patient's entire hospital stay, or the hospital stay may be divided into separate episodes of care of different types, such as acute care, palliative care and rehabilitation care (see <i>Type of episode of care</i> and <i>Separation</i>).</p> <p>Knowledgebase ID: 000168</p>
<i>Error DRGs</i>	<p>Seven AR-DRGs to which separations are grouped if their records contain clinically inconsistent or invalid information.</p>
<i>Establishment type</i>	<p>Type of establishment (defined in terms of legislative approval, service provided and patients treated) for each separately administered establishment.</p> <p>Knowledgebase ID: 000327</p> <p>Establishment types include:</p> <p><i>Acute care hospitals</i> – Establishments which provide at least minimal medical, surgical or obstetric services for admitted patient treatment and/or care, and which provide round-the-clock comprehensive qualified nursing service as well as other necessary professional services. They must be licensed by the State or Territory health department, or controlled by government departments. Most of the patients have acute conditions or temporary ailments and the average stay per admission is relatively short. Public acute care hospitals are funded and controlled by the State or Territory health authority. Private acute care hospitals are not controlled by the State or Territory health authority.</p> <p>Knowledgebase ID: 000327 (R1)</p>

Psychiatric hospitals – Institutions which provide treatment and care for patients with psychiatric, mental or behavioural disorders. Public psychiatric hospitals are funded and controlled by the State or Territory health authority. Private psychiatric hospitals are not controlled by the State or Territory health authority.

Knowledgebase ID: 000327 (R2)

Alcohol and drug treatment centres – Free-standing centres for the treatment of drug dependence on an in-patient basis.

Knowledgebase ID: 000327 (R4)

Hospices – Establishments providing palliative care to terminally ill patients.

Knowledgebase ID: 000327 (R6)

Multi-purpose service – Based on a legal definition rather than an operational one. The hospitals in this category are classified as such because they are part of a multi-purpose service health program. As a result some of the hospitals are whole MPSs, some are only the hospital part of an MPS and some are hospitals that are part of networks that are MPSs. This leads to some inconsistencies across jurisdictions.

Public acute and psychiatric hospitals – This category (Tables 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.6, 3.7 and 3.8) includes public acute hospitals, public psychiatric hospitals, public alcohol and drug treatment centre, public hospice and public MPSs. The environmental event, circumstance or condition as the cause of injury, poisoning and other adverse effect.

External cause

Knowledgebase ID: 000053

Full time equivalent staff

Full time equivalent staff units are on-job hours worked and hours of paid leave (sick, recreation, long service, workers' compensation) by/for a staff member (or contract employee where applicable) divided by the number of hours normally worked by a full time staff member when on the job (or contract employee where applicable) under the relevant award or agreement.

Knowledgebase ID: 000252

Staffing categories include:

Salaried medical officers – Medical officers engaged by the hospital on a full time or part time salaried basis.

Knowledgebase ID: 000252 (C1.1)

Registered nurses – Nurses with at least a 3-year training certificate and nurses holding postgraduate qualifications. Registered nurses must be registered with a State or Territory registration board.

Knowledgebase ID: 000252 (C1.2)

Enrolled nurses – Second-level nurses who are enrolled in all States and Territories except Victoria where they are registered by the State registration board to practise in this capacity. Includes general enrolled nurses and specialist enrolled nurses (e.g. mothercraft nurses in some States and Territories).

Knowledgebase ID: 000252 (C1.3)

Student nurses – Nurses employed by the establishment currently studying in years 1 to 3 of a 3-year certificate course. This includes any person commencing or undertaking a 3-year course of training leading to registration as a nurse by the State or Territory registration board. This

includes full time general student nurses and specialist student nurses, such as mental deficiency nurses, but excludes practising nurses enrolled in post-basic training courses.

Knowledgebase ID: 000252 (C1.4)

Trainee/pupil nurses – Nurses that are commencing or undertaking a 1-year course of training leading to registration as an enrolled nurse on the State or Territory registration board (includes all trainee nurses).

Knowledgebase ID: 000252 (C1.5)

Other personal care staff – This category includes attendants, assistants or home assistants, home companions, family aides, ward helpers, wards persons, orderlies, ward assistants and nursing assistants, engaged primarily in the provision of personal care to patients or residents, who are not formally qualified or undergoing training in nursing or allied health professions.

Knowledgebase ID: 000252 (C1.6)

Diagnostic and health professionals – Qualified staff (other than qualified medical and nursing staff) engaged in duties of a diagnostic, professional or technical nature (but also including diagnostic and health professionals whose duties are primarily or partly of an administrative nature). This category includes all allied health professionals and laboratory technicians but excludes civil engineers and computing staff.

Knowledgebase ID: 000252 (C1.7)

Administrative and clerical staff – Staff engaged in administrative and clerical duties. Civil engineers and computing staff are included in this category. Medical staff and nursing staff, diagnostic and health professionals, and any domestic staff primarily or partly engaged in administrative and clerical duties are excluded.

Knowledgebase ID: 000252 (C1.8)

Domestic and other staff – Staff engaged in the provision of food and cleaning services. They include domestic staff, such as food services managers, primarily engaged in administrative duties. This category also includes all staff not elsewhere included (primarily maintenance staff, trades-persons and gardening staff).

Knowledgebase ID: 000252 (C1.9)

HASAC For hospitals where the IFRAC was not available or was clearly inconsistent with the data, the admitted patient costs are estimated by the Health and Allied Services Advisory Council (HASAC) ratio (see Appendix 4).

Hospice See *Establishment type*.

IFRAC The ratio of admitted patient costs to total hospital costs, also known as the admitted patient cost proportion.

Ineligible patient A patient who is not eligible under the Australian Health Care Agreements.
Knowledgebase ID: 000118

Interest payments Payments made by or on behalf of the establishment in respect of borrowings (e.g. interest on bank overdraft), provided the establishment is permitted to borrow.

Knowledgebase ID: 000245

<i>Length of stay</i>	The length of stay of a patient is calculated by subtracting the date the patient is admitted from the date of separation. All leave days, including the day the patient went on leave, are excluded. A same day patient is allocated a length of stay of one day. Knowledgebase ID: 000119
<i>Major Diagnostic Categories (MDCs)</i>	A high level of groupings of patients used in the AR-DRG classification. Knowledgebase ID: 000088
<i>Medical and surgical supplies expenditure</i>	The cost of all consumables of a medical or surgical nature (excluding drug supplies) but not including expenditure on equipment repairs. Knowledgebase ID: 000239
<i>Multi-purpose service</i>	See <i>Establishment type</i> .
<i>Newborn care</i>	See <i>Type of episode of care</i> .
<i>Non-admitted patient occasion of service</i>	Occurs when a patient attends a functional unit of the hospital for the purpose of receiving some form of service, but is not admitted. A visit for administrative purposes is not an occasion of service. Knowledgebase ID: 000209
<i>Non-admitted patients</i>	Patients who receive care from a recognised non-admitted patient service/ clinic of a hospital. Knowledgebase ID: 000104
<i>Not published (n.p.)</i>	Not available for separate publication but included in the totals where applicable.
<i>Other personal care staff</i>	See <i>Full time equivalent staff</i> .
<i>Other recurrent expenditure</i>	Recurrent expenditure not included elsewhere in any of the recurrent expenditure categories. Knowledgebase ID: 000247
<i>Other revenue</i>	All other revenue received by the establishment that is not included under patient revenue or recoveries (but not including revenue payments received from State or Territory Governments). This would include revenue such as investment income from temporarily surplus funds and income from charities, bequests and accommodation provided to visitors. Knowledgebase ID: 000323
<i>Palliative care</i>	See <i>Type of episode of care</i> .
<i>Patient days</i>	The number of full or partial days' stay for patients who were admitted for an episode of care and who underwent separation during the reporting period. A patient who is admitted and separated on the same day is allocated one patient day. Further information on patient days is included in Appendix 3. Knowledgebase ID: 000206
<i>Patient revenue</i>	Revenue received by, and due to, an establishment in respect of individual patient liability for accommodation and other establishment charges. Knowledgebase ID: 000296
<i>Patient transport</i>	The direct cost of transporting patients, excluding salaries and wages of transport staff. Knowledgebase ID: 000243
<i>Payments to visiting medical officers</i>	All payments made to visiting medical officers for medical services provided to hospital (public patients) on a sessionally paid or fee-for-service basis. Knowledgebase ID: 000236
<i>Place of occurrence of external cause</i>	The place where the external cause of injury, poisoning or violence occurred. Knowledgebase ID: 000128

<i>Pre-MDC</i>	Eight AR-DRGs to which separations are grouped, regardless of their principal diagnoses, if they involved procedures that are particularly resource intensive (transplants, tracheostomies or extra-corporeal membrane oxygenation without cardiac surgery).
<i>Principal diagnosis</i>	The diagnosis established after study to be chiefly responsible for occasioning the patient's episode of care in hospital. Knowledgebase ID: 000136
<i>Private hospital</i>	A privately owned and operated institution, catering for patients who are treated by a doctor of their own choice. Patients are charged fees for accommodation and other services provided by the hospital and relevant medical and paramedical practitioners. Acute care and psychiatric hospitals are included. See <i>Establishment type</i> .
<i>Procedure</i>	A clinical intervention that is surgical in nature, carries a procedural risk, carries an anaesthetic risk, requires specialised training and/or requires special facilities or equipment only available in the acute care setting. Knowledgebase ID: 000137
<i>Psychiatric hospitals</i>	See <i>Establishment type</i> .
<i>Qualified days</i>	Days within <i>Newborn</i> episodes of care are either qualified or unqualified. Days are qualified if the patient is the second or subsequent live-born infant of a multiple birth, whose mother is an admitted patient; is admitted to an intensive care facility in a hospital; or is admitted to, or remains in hospital without its mother.
<i>Recoveries</i>	All revenue received that is in the nature of a recovery of expenditure incurred. This would include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • income received from the use of hospital facilities by salaried medical officers exercising their rights of private practice and by private practitioners treating private patients in hospital; and • other recoveries such as those relating to inter-hospital services where the revenue relates to a range of different costs and cannot be clearly offset against any particular cost. Knowledgebase ID: 000295
<i>Recurrent expenditure</i>	Expenditure which is not capital expenditure. Includes salaries and wages expenditure and non-salary expenditure such as payments to visiting medical officers. Knowledgebase ID: 000533
<i>Registered nurses</i>	See <i>Full time equivalent staff</i> .
<i>Rehabilitation care</i>	See <i>Type of episode of care</i> .
<i>Repairs and maintenance expenditure</i>	The costs incurred in maintaining, repairing, replacing and providing additional equipment, maintaining and renovating building and minor additional works. Knowledgebase ID: 000242
<i>Salaried medical officers</i>	See <i>Full time equivalent staff</i> .
<i>Same day patients</i>	Same day patients are admitted patients who are admitted and separate on the same date. Knowledgebase ID: 000146

<i>Separation</i>	<p>The term used to refer to the episode of care, which can be a total hospital stay (from admission to discharge, transfer or death), or a portion of a hospital stay beginning or ending in a change of type of care (for example, from acute to rehabilitation). 'Separation' also means the process by which an admitted patient completes an episode of care by being discharged, dying, transferring to another hospital or changing type of care.</p> <p>Knowledgebase ID: 000205</p>
<i>Specialised service</i>	<p>A facility or unit dedicated to the treatment or care of patients with particular conditions or characteristics.</p> <p>Knowledgebase ID: 000321</p>
<i>Statistical Division</i>	<p>A general purpose spatial unit, it is the largest and most stable unit within the Australian Standard Geographical Classification (ASGC). This classification has been developed by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and covers all of Australia without gaps or overlaps or crossing of State or Territory boundaries.</p> <p>Knowledgebase ID: 000260</p>
<i>Student nurses</i>	<p>See <i>Full time equivalent staff</i>.</p>
<i>Superannuation payments</i>	<p>Contributions paid or (for an emerging cost scheme) that should be paid (as determined by an actuary) on behalf of establishment employees either by the establishment or a central administration such as a State or Territory health authority, to a superannuation fund providing retirement and related benefits to establishment employees.</p> <p>Knowledgebase ID: 000237</p>
<i>Trainee/pupil nurses</i>	<p>See <i>Full time equivalent staff</i>.</p>
<i>Type of episode of care</i>	<p>The care type defines the overall nature of the clinical service provided to an admitted patient during an episode of care.</p> <p>Knowledgebase ID: 000168</p> <p><i>Acute care</i> is care in which the clinical intent or treatment goal is to manage labour (obstetric); cure illness or provide definitive treatment of injury; perform surgery; relieve symptoms of illness or injury (excluding palliative care); reduce severity of an illness or injury; protect against exacerbation and/or complication of an illness and/or injury which could threaten life or normal function; and/or perform diagnostic or therapeutic procedures.</p> <p><i>Rehabilitation care</i> occurs when a person with a disability is participating in a multidisciplinary program aimed at an improvement in functional capacity, retraining in lost skills and/or change in psychosocial adaptation.</p> <p><i>Palliative care</i> occurs when a person's condition has progressed beyond the stage where curative treatment is effective and attainable or, where the person chooses not to pursue curative treatment. Palliation provides relief of suffering and enhancement of quality of life for such a person. Interventions such as radiotherapy, chemotherapy and surgery are considered to be part of the palliative episode if they are undertaken specifically to provide symptomatic relief.</p> <p><i>Non-acute care</i> includes care provided to persons who are Nursing Home Type Patients; to patients who would normally not require hospital treatment but where there are factors in the home environment which make it inappropriate for the person to be discharged in the short term; to patients in receipt of respite care; and to patients in psychiatric units for whom the principal function is provision of care over an indefinite period.</p>

Newborn care is initiated when the patient is 9 days old or less at the time of admission. Newborn episodes of care comprise qualified days only, separations with a mixture of qualified and unqualified days and separations with unqualified days only. Separations comprising only qualified days are considered to be the equivalent of episodes of acute care. *Other care* is where the principal clinical intent does not meet the criteria for any of the above.

Type of non-admitted patient occasion of service

A broad classification of services provided to non-admitted patients. See data element 231 in the *National Health Data Dictionary* Version 8.0 for further details.

Visiting medical officer

A medical practitioner appointed by the hospital board to provide medical services for hospital (public) patients on an honorary, sessionally paid, or fee-for-service basis.

Knowledgebase ID: 000236

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