Queensland Hospital Admitted Patient Data Collection (QHAPDC)

Admission and Separation date and time

Information relating to the admission and separation for an admitted patient is crucial in understanding when the hospital or facility providing care accepts responsibility for the care and treatment of a patient and when that responsibility ends.

Admission

Admission is the process whereby the hospital accepts responsibility for the patient's care and/or treatment. Admission follows a clinical decision based upon specified criteria that a patient requires same-day or overnight care or treatment. An admission may be formal or statistical.[1]

A formal admission is the administrative process by which a hospital records the commencement of treatment and/or care and/or accommodation of a patient. A statistical admission is the administrative process by which a hospital records the commencement of a new episode of care, with a new care type, for a patient within one hospital stay.

For example, a patient presenting at hospital for admission for a planned operation is considered to be a formal admission, whereas an already admitted patient who is being treated for an acute condition and has been clinically assessed as being able to commence the rehabilitation phase of their hospital stay will be statistically separated from an acute care type and statistically re-admitted as a rehabilitation patient with a rehabilitation care type.

For more information about care type, please see Hospital service-care type (QHAPDC)[2].

The two essential data elements relating to the concept of admission are:

- Admission date (Episode of admitted patient care-admission date[3]): Date on which an admitted patient commences an episode of care
- Admission time (Episode of admitted patient care-admission time[4]): Time at which an admitted patient commences an episode of care.

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[1] Queensland Health Data Dictionary, accessed 21 April 2017,
http://oascrasprod.co.health.qld.gov.au:7900/pls/crd_prd/f?p=103:7:::NO::P7_SEQ_ID:42027&cs=1E3CCA7BC5E593ADF5109FA874A6E3DBD
[2] Queensland Health Data Dictionary, accessed 21 April 2017,
http://oascrasprod.co.health.qld.gov.au:7900/pls/crd_prd/f?p=103:7:::NO::P7_SEQ_ID:42579&cs=1F67112F70D5E4FD2C6347F4E08164F2E
[3] Queensland Health Data Dictionary, accessed 21 April 2017,
http://oascrasprod.co.health.qld.gov.au:7900/pls/crd_prd/f?p=103:7:::NO::P7_SEQ_ID:42028&cs=10E9B9DC953D4EF6A8C91A6AF001A2B56
[4] Queensland Health Data Dictionary, accessed 21 April 2017,
http://oascrasprod.co.health.qld.gov.au:7900/pls/crd_prd/f?p=103:7:::NO::P7_SEQ_ID:42029&cs=1BC28CB99E23045785B0692C6A01D8D95

Separation

Separation is the process by which an episode of care for an admitted patient ceases. A separation may be formal or statistical. An episode of care may cease because the patient's treatment is complete, the type of care of the patient has changed, the patient no longer requires care, has deceased, is transferred to another hospital/care facility or the patient leaves the hospital against medical advice.

Formal separation is the administrative process by which a hospital records the cessation of treatment and/or care and/or accommodation of a patient. Statistical separation is the administrative process by which a hospital records the cessation of an episode of care for a patient prior to admission to another episode of care within the one hospital stay (as included in the above Admission scenario).

For both formal and statistical separations, the two essential data elements are:

- Separation date (Episode of admitted patient care-separation date[5]): Date on which an admitted patient completes an episode of care
- Separation time (Episode of admitted patient care-separation time[6]): Time at which an admitted patient completes an episode of care.

Importance of correct Admission and Separation data

The correct capture of date/time components for admission and separation allows for the calculation of the length of stay for an episode of care, impacts funding, identifies when care started and ended and allows for analysis of the data by time, day of the week, month, season and year.

Admission and Separation Scenarios
Below are scenarios that illustrate the capture/recording of correct admission and separation data.

Scenario 1:

A patient presents at the hospital on 1 March 2017 at 9 am (09:00 hrs) for a same-day chemotherapy episode of care.

09:00 hrs	A patient presents at Admission desk for admission and treatment. The patient is asked to wait in the waiting room.
09:10 hrs	The patient is called to the Admission desk for admission processes to be completed. At this time, the hospital staff confirm that the intended procedure will be undertaken.
09:15 hrs	Admission processes are complete and patient waits in the waiting room for clinical staff.
09.20 hrs	Clinical staff meet patient and go with patient to treatment area.
09:30 hrs	Chemotherapy treatment commences.
12:00 hrs	Chemotherapy treatment is completed. The patient is observed by clinical staff.
14:00 hrs	Post treatment observation of patient is completed and the patient is able to leave treatment area.
14:15 hrs	The patient leaves the hospital after speaking with the staff at the Admission desk to let them know they have finished their treatment and are going home.

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[5] Queensland Health Data Dictionary, accessed 21 April 2017,
http://oascrasprod.co.health.qld.gov.au:7900/pls/crd_prd/f?p=103:7:::NO::P7_SEQ_ID:42069&cs=19494C30DA721A3D6BB81CD248D595FBD
[6] Queensland Health Data Dictionary, accessed 21 April 2017,
http://oascrasprod.co.health.qld.gov.au:7900/pls/crd_prd/f?p=103:7:::NO::P7_SEQ_ID:42070&cs=1E2D9E51EF054C9A52DF781F73326188F

The hospital accepted responsibility for the care of the patient at 09:10. Therefore, the admission date and time are 01/03/2017 at 09:10 hrs.

The patient completed their treatment and other care, and was no longer the responsibility of the hospital at 14:15 hrs. Therefore, the discharge date and time are 01/03/2017 at 14:15 hrs.

Scenario 2

A patient is admitted to hospital for rehabilitation care (admitted 09:00 hrs on the 1 March 2017).

During the episode of care, the patient falls and sustains a fractured hip (11:00 hrs on 7 March 2017). The treating clinicians make the clinical decision that the patient's injury is to be acutely treated by an orthopaedic surgeon and the patient is booked for an operation on 8 March 2017. Responsibility for care of the patient is transferred to the orthopaedic surgeon at 14:00 hrs on 7 March 2017.

Five days after the patient has the operation to repair the fractured hip, the treating clinicians clinically agree (at 10:00 hrs on 13 March 2017) that the patient meets the criteria for rehabilitation care and that the patient is able to return to the Rehabilitation Unit.

The patient completes their rehabilitation care 10 days later and is discharged home (09:00 hrs 23rd March 2017).

09:00 hrs on 1 March 2017	Formal admission to a rehabilitation care episode of care.
14:00 hrs on 7 March 2017	Statistical separation from a rehabilitation care episode of care.
14:01 hrs on 7 March 2017	Statistical admission to an acute care episode of care.
10:00 hrs on 13 March 2017	Statistical separation from an acute care episode of care.
10:01 hrs on 13 March 2017	Statistical admission to a rehabilitation care episode of care.
09:00 hrs on 23 March 2017	Formal separation.

Please note that the time recorded for a statistical admission should be no longer than 1 minute after the time recorded for the preceding statistical separation of a patient within the one hospital stay.

Scenario 3

A palliative care patient is admitted to hospital at 07:00 hrs on 1 March 2017 for end of life care. The patient dies two days after being admitted (3 March 2017) at 23:00 hrs. The patient remains in the ward until end of life care has been provided, the family have visited and religious rites have been performed.

The deceased patient is moved to the hospital mortuary at 08:00 hrs on 4 March 2017.

07:00 hrs on 1 March 2017	Formal admission to a palliative care episode of care
23:00 hrs on 3 March 2017	Formal separation.