

GLOSSARY & INDEX

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Glossary of terms

Bed days

The total number of bed days of all admitted patients accommodated during the reporting period. It is taken from the count of the number of inpatients at midnight (approximately) each day. Details for Same Day patients are also recorded as Occupied Bed Days where one Occupied Bed Day is counted for each Same Day patient.

Bed occupancy rate

The percentage of available beds which have been occupied over the year. It is a measure of the intensity of the use of hospital resources by inpatients.

Clinical governance

A term to describe a systematic approach to maintaining and improving the quality of patient care within a health system.

Comorbidity

The presence of one or more disorders (or diseases) in addition to a primary disease or disorder.

eMR – Electronic Medical Record

An online record which tracks and details a patient's care during the time spent in hospital. It is a single database where patient details are entered once and then become accessible to all treating clinicians, with authorised access, anywhere in the hospital.

Enrolled nurses

Enrolled Nurses work with Registered Nurses to provide patients with basic nursing care.

Episode funding

Funding the costs of caring for patients at each different phase of their episode of illness, based on cost of expected workload and available funds.

Funded/Available beds

A suitably located and equipped bed or cot where the necessary financial and human resources are provided for admitted patient care.

Healthcare associated infections

An infection a patient acquires while in a healthcare setting receiving treatment for other conditions.

Hospitalist

A medical practitioner whose primary focus is to enhance care for patients in a cross specialty mode throughout the patient's healthcare experience. The hospitalist specialises in facilitating and coordinating the care and care systems for patients. They work in wards, emergency departments (ED), outpatient departments and community settings.

Medical Assessment Unit

A designated hospital ward specifically staffed and designed to receive medical inpatients for assessment, care and treatment for a designated period. Patients can be referred directly to the MAU by-passing the emergency department.

Non-specialist doctors

A doctor without postgraduate medical qualifications who receives a government salary for the delivery of non-specialist healthcare services in a public hospital to public patients.

Nurse Practitioner

A registered nurse educated and authorised to function autonomously and collaboratively in an advanced and extended clinical role. The role includes assessment and management of clients using nursing knowledge and skills and may include but is not limited to, the direct referral of patients to other health care professionals, prescribing medications and ordering diagnostic investigations.

Triage

An essential function of emergency departments where many patients may present at the same time. Triage aims to ensure that patients are treated in order of their clinical priority and that their treatment is timely.

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Annual Report 2008

PRODUCTION INFORMATION

The 2007/08 Department of Health Annual Report was edited, coordinated, designed and produced by the Media and Communications branch, NSW Department of Health.

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Edited by: Annette Fitzpatrick

Subediting and print coordination: Jacqueline Marcus

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Consultant: Lys Blanchett

External production contribution:
Barbara Cowen, B Creative Design
Glenda Browne, Webindexing

Printed by: Express Digital Print

Production cost

TOTAL – production and printing \$18,000

This Annual Report was printed on recycled paper.

The Annual Report is available on the NSW Department of Health website www.health.nsw.gov/aboutus/

