



Guide to interpreting the Admitted Patient Activity Summary

1. Introduction

This dashboard relates to admitted patient care provided by public hospitals in Western Australia (WA).

An admitted patient (also known as an inpatient) is a patient who undergoes a hospital admission process to receive treatment or care for a period of time. Admitted care is generally provided in a hospital ward or unit, or may be provided in a patient's home under specific criteria within Hospital in the Home programs.

For reporting purposes, admitted care is distinct from the non-admitted services provided in public hospital Emergency Departments or Outpatient Clinics. Reported admissions include patients requiring urgent care for acute conditions (e.g. after presenting to an Emergency Department) as well as planned admissions (e.g. for elective surgery).

The Admitted Patient Activity Summary provides information on the volume, type and length of admissions that have occurred within the WA health system.

2. Reporting metrics

Inpatient admissions completed

- Represents the number of episodes of admitted care that were completed during the reported month.
- Although referred to as “admissions” in this dashboard, admitted episodes of care are counted because a person may have multiple episodes of care during the same admission (see Glossary).
- Admissions are reported only after the patient's episode of admitted care has been completed due to being discharged from hospital, transferred to another healthcare facility, commencing a new phase of care (e.g. moving from an acute ward to a rehabilitation ward), or if the patient dies in hospital.
- Admissions are reported by:
 - Same-day admissions**
 - Admissions where the patient is admitted and discharged on the same date.
 - Multi-day admissions**
 - Admissions where the patient remains in hospital for at least one night – i.e. admitted and discharged on different dates.

Bed days

- The number of days in which an admitted patient receives care in a hospital is measured in bed days. This is also known as the patient's length of stay.
- The number of bed days reported in the dashboard represents the total days of admitted care recorded for all admissions completed during the relevant month.

Admissions via Emergency Departments

- Patients may be admitted to an inpatient ward or unit via a range of pathways. This dashboard displays the percentage of admissions that occur as a result of individuals attending an Emergency Department.
- Note that information about elective surgery admissions can be found via the [Elective Surgery Monthly Report](#) and [Elective Surgery Specialty Report](#).

Length of stay

- An admitted patient's length of stay is the number of days they remain in hospital (see Bed days above). The length of stay for a same-day admission is one day.
- The dashboard reports the average length of stay for all multi-day admissions.

Day of admission/discharge

- Displays the volumes of admitted episodes that were commenced (admissions) and completed (discharges), by day of the week.
- This provides information about patterns of admitted patient activity and bed usage at WA public hospitals.
- For the purposes of this metric, discharges include patients who completed their admission and returned to their usual place of residence, as well as those who were transferred to another healthcare or residential care facility.

3. Data sources and data coverage

Data in the Admitted Patient Activity Summary is sourced from discharge extracts which contain data from a range of different patient administration information systems and are managed by the Purchasing and System Performance Division at the WA Department of Health.

The Admitted Patient Activity Summary includes data from all public hospitals and major contracted health entities within the WA health system that provide admitted patient services.

4. Data extraction and reporting

Data in the Admitted Patient Activity Summary is extracted at the end of the last day of each reported month.

The dashboard can be filtered by:

- Specialty
- Hospital or metropolitan/country
- Date (month)

Filtering the dashboard by month will not affect the Admissions graph, or the Length of Stay graph, as these display the latest 12 months of data.

If there was no activity meeting the criteria of the selected filters, this will be displayed as zero admissions and bed days. Metrics reported as a percentage or average will be displayed as "N/A".

Dashboard data is available in an accessible format via the link under Related Links at the bottom of the webpage.

5. Data interpretation

- Data in the Admitted Patient Activity Summary is preliminary only and uses the most recent available monthly data, which has not undergone the full range of data processing, cleaning

and quality assurance processes used within the Department of Health's Hospital Morbidity Data Collection. As such, differences may exist between figures reported in this dashboard and other reports and small movements in historical data may occur as a result of these processes being completed.

- Admissions to very small country hospitals and contracted activity occurring at facilities other than Joondalup Health Campus, Peel Health Campus and St John of God Midland Public Hospital are excluded.
- Admissions are reported against the month in which the patient completed their episode of admitted care.
- Average length of stay figures for hospitals with very low volumes of admissions (e.g. small country hospitals) should be interpreted with caution.
- Average length of stay may vary significantly between hospitals due to differences in the types of admitted services provided.
- The dashboard can be filtered by any one of the 30 clinical specialties with the highest volumes of admissions. Note that because a patient may receive care from multiple specialties during an admission, specialty-level data is based on the Specialty from which the patient was discharged.
- Admissions completed in Emergency Department short stay units (see Glossary) are reported as admitted activity under the specialty of Emergency Medicine.
- Some specialties have been grouped together for ease of interpretation:

Clinician Specialty	Reported Specialty
Child Psychiatry	Mental Health
General Practitioner	General Medicine
General Practitioner/Obstetric	Obstetrics
Gynaecology oncologist	Gynaecology
Haematology	Haematology/Oncology
Neonatology	Neonatal (Newborn) Medicine
Newborn	Neonatal (Newborn) Medicine
Oncology	Haematology/Oncology
Physician	General Medicine
Psychiatry	Mental Health
Psychogeriatrics	Mental Health
Urogynaecology	Gynaecology

- Specialties with relatively low volumes of admissions are reported under 'Other':

Specialties reported under 'Other'	
Anaesthetics	Oral Surgery
Communicable diseases	Pain Management
Dermatology	Palliative Medicine
Infectious/Tropical Medicine	Pathology
Intensive Care Medicine	Pharmacology
Liver transplant surgery	Radiation Oncology
Medical Administrator	Radiotherapy
Microbiology	Renal Transplant
Radiology	Rheumatology
Nuclear Medicine	Spinal Surgery

6. Glossary

Episode of care

A phase of treatment for an admitted patient. An episode of care may be the patient's entire hospital stay, or their stay may consist of multiple episodes of different types, such as acute care, rehabilitation, and palliative care. Each episode of care is reported as a new admission.

Short stay unit

An Emergency Department short stay unit is designated for the short term observation, assessment and admitted treatment of patients initially triaged and assessed in the Emergency Department. A short stay unit is designed for short term stays no longer than 24 hours and has specific admission criteria. It is not an ED overflow area nor used for patients solely awaiting an inpatient bed.

Specialty

In the context of this dashboard, specialty refers to the area of clinical expertise held by the doctor who provided care for the patient immediately prior to their discharge.

WA health system

Refers to the public health system in WA, as defined in Section 19(1) of the *Health Services Act 2016*. The WA health system comprises the Department of Health, Health Service Providers and public services provided by contracted health entities.

Health Service Providers are board-governed statutory authorities that are legally responsible and accountable for the delivery of health services for their local areas and communities. Health Service Providers currently providing admitted patient services are:

- Child and Adolescent Health Service (CAHS)
- North Metropolitan Health Service (NMHS)
- South Metropolitan Health Service (SMHS)
- East Metropolitan Health Service (EMHS)
- WA Country Health Service (WACHS)

Contracted health entities are privately-operated health facilities that are contracted by the State Government to provide public healthcare services. Contracted health entities reported in this dashboard are Joondalup Health Campus, Peel Health Campus and St John of God Midland Public Hospital.

7. Citation of WA health system Admitted Patient Activity data

Acknowledgement of the Information and System Performance Directorate, Western Australian Department of Health should accompany any use of the data.

8. More information

[Admitted Patient Care reports](#), Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with disability.

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