
Sex

Specification

Definition Sex is the biological distinction between male and female. Where there is an inconsistency between anatomical and chromosomal characteristics, sex is based on anatomical characteristics.

Datatype Alpha/numeric **Form** Code

Field size One **Layout** N

Reported for All Waiting List episodes.

Recorded when The patient is first registered on the Waiting List.

Code set **Code Descriptor**

- 1 Male
- 2 Female
- 3 Indeterminate
- 4 Intersex

Reporting guide Sex should be inferred or accepted as reported by the respondent, as at the time of registration. That is, it is usually unnecessary and may be inappropriate or even offensive to ask a person their sex. Sex may be inferred from other cues such as observation, relationship to respondent, or first name.

A person's sex may change during their lifetime as a result of procedures known alternatively as Sex change, Gender reassignment, Transsexual surgery, Transgender reassignment or Sexual reassignment. Throughout this process, which may be over a considerable period of time, sex could be recorded as either Male or Female.

The term 'intersex' refers to a person, who, because of a genetic condition was born with reproductive organs or sex chromosomes that are not exclusively male or female and who identifies as being neither male nor female. *Excludes:* transgender, transsexual and chromosomally indeterminate individuals who identify with a particular sex (male or female).

Code 3 *Indeterminate* should be used for infants with ambiguous genitalia, where the biological sex, even following genetic testing, cannot be determined. Code 3 can only be assigned for infants aged less than 90 days.

Codes 3 *Indeterminate* and 4 *Intersex* should not generally be used on data collection forms completed by the respondent. They should only be used if the person or respondent volunteers that the person is intersex or where it otherwise becomes clear during the collection process that the individual is neither male nor female

Edits S091 Sex code Invalid
S093 Unusual Sex Code Reported

Related items Nil

Administration

Purpose To enable analyses of service utilisation, need for services and epidemiological studies.

Principal data users Multiple internal and external data users.

Collection start July 1997 **Version** 2 (Effective 01.07.99)
3 (Effective 01.07.04)

Definition source Australian Bureau of Statistics **Code set source** NHDD (DHS modified)