

Section 1— Introduction

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Development of the VEMD

The Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD) contains de-identified demographic, administrative and clinical data detailing presentations at Victorian public hospitals with 24-hour Emergency Departments.

The VEMD commenced in 1995 as an initiative of the Department of Human Services in collaboration with the Victorian Emergency Department's Association, the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Victoria Faculty, the Emergency Nurse's Association, and Monash University Accident Research Centre (MUARC). MUARC have been collecting data for Emergency department data for injury presentations through their Victorian Injury Surveillance and Applied Research System (VISAR) (formerly known as Victorian Injury Surveillance System (VISS)) since 1989.

The Health Data Standards and Systems and Information Analysis Units of the Metropolitan Health and Aged Care Services Division manage the operations of the VEMD and the Department is advised by the Emergency Department Information System (EDIS) Review Committee (see pages 1—6 and 1—13).

Uses of the Data Collection

The VEMD provides information for:

- Epidemiological studies
- Health service planning and coordination
- Policy assessment and formulation
- Clinical research
- Quality improvement
- Patient management
- ED operation and management and
- To enable Victoria to fulfil its reporting obligations under the National Health Information Agreement and the Australian Health Care Agreement

EDIS Review Committee

The EDIS Review Committee comprises representatives from the Department of Human Services, participating hospitals, and the metropolitan and rural ambulance services (See Page 1—13, Acknowledgments for current members).

A wide range of areas are covered by the group including:

- Specification of data items
- Business rules
- Data submission
- Data quality
- Reporting requirements
- Standard data reports
- Linkage and standardisation with other data sets

The VEMD Cycle

The development and refinement of the dataset and accompanying manual is achieved through an annual cycle involving:

1. Call for proposals for changes to the VEMD Specification
2. Development and distribution of the 'Proposals for Revisions' document
3. Feedback on the proposals
4. HDSS Forum
5. Development and distribution of the 'Specification for Revisions' document
6. Development and distribution of the 'Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset' manual

VEMD Manual

Purpose

The purpose of the VEMD manual is to provide the users of the VEMD with a user friendly and complete information resource on the dataset. It is designed to:

- Provide users with the information needed to successfully compile and transmit the data files
- Familiarise users with data items and edits
- Detail or provide the location of related reference files and code lists
- Identify support services and contact details
- Outline the background and development of the VEMD

The majority of data items and codesets utilised in the VEMD have been based on, or taken from definitions and codesets specified in the National Health Data Dictionary (NHDD, V11.0).

This manual has seven sections (see Page 1-8, Layout) providing clinical, nursing and clerical staff with the level of detail necessary to accurately record patient demographics, diagnoses, procedures, injury surveillance and other data. Where necessary, explanatory notes are included to promote consistent interpretation of the data items.

Software suppliers should bear in mind that hospital systems do not need to exactly replicate the data items and edits outlined in the manual. However, the interface must be capable of formatting the data appropriately for transmission and processing to DHS.

Layout

Section 1: Introduction

- Collection background
- Where to access publications and reference files
- How to contact the DHS VEMD staff
- Lists of abbreviations used in the manual
- Members of the EDIS Review Committee

Section 2: Concept and Derived Item Definitions

- Concept and Derived items listed in alphabetical order

Section 3: Data Definitions

- Data definition structure
- Data items listed in alphabetical order
- VEMD Business Rules

Section 4: Supplementary Code Lists

- Campus Code, Transfer Source / Destination code lists: alphabetical order, Numerical order
- Country of Birth Codes: summary and detailed numerical order, alphabetical order
- Emergency Department ICD-10-AM Diagnosis Codes
- Nature of Main Injury / Body Region and ICD-10-AM Matrix
- Nature of Main Injury / Body Region and ICD-10-AM Matrix Editing Table
- Preferred Language code
- Emergency Department Procedure Codes

Section 5: Compilation and Submission

- File structure and format
- File naming conventions, period of extract, and file security
- Data quality (standard data reports, comparison between the paper based aggregate reports and electronic patient level data), schedule requirements, and related policies

Section 6: Editing

- Summary of edit messages and business rules
- Specific details of each edit message

Section 7: SAS Edits

- Specific details of the SAS program used by the Department

VEMD Reference Files

<i>Reference File</i>	<i>Location</i>
• Campus Code	http://hdss.health.vic.gov.au/reffiles/index.htm
• Statistical Local Area (SLA)	http://hdss.health.vic.gov.au/reffiles/index.htm
• Country of Birth	http://hdss.health.vic.gov.au/reffiles/index.htm
• Preferred Language	http://hdss.health.vic.gov.au/vemd/index.htm
• ICD-10-AM Library File	http://hdss.health.vic.gov.au/vemd/index.htm
• Body Region Matrix	http://hdss.health.vic.gov.au/vemd/index.htm

All of the reference files listed above are available to software suppliers in soft copy excel format, or in hard copy in Section 4 (except for Statistical Local Area (SLA)). Alternatively, access the related web sites or contact the HDSS Help Desk to request a copy (See also Page 1—12, Contact Details).

DHS Publications

Main DHS publications (relating to the VEMD):

<i>Publication</i>	<i>Where</i>	<i>Contains</i>
<i>HDSS Bulletins</i>	http://hdss.health.vic.gov.au/bulletin/index.htm Mailed to users on VEMD mailing list.	VEMD, ESIS and VAED and general information
<i>Proposals for revisions</i>	http://hdss.health.vic.gov.au/vemd/index.htm Notification of release mailed to users on VEMD mailing list.	Proposals for revisions to the dataset
<i>Specification for Revisions</i>	http://hdss.health.vic.gov.au/vemd/index.htm Notification of release mailed to users on VEMD mailing list.	Specified revisions to dataset for next manual
<i>VEMD Manual</i>	http://hdss.health.vic.gov.au/vemd/index.htm Mailed to users on VEMD mailing list.	Policy, data items, edits etc
<i>Policy & Funding Guidelines</i>	http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ahs/pfg2001/index.htm	Hospital Demand Management Strategy

Other Relevant Publications

Department of Human Services:

Hospital Circulars

Majority of circulars are also available on the Internet at:
<http://www.dhs.vic.gov.au/ahs/circular/index.htm>

Victorian Health Services

Maps and information are available on the Internet at:
<http://www.health.vic.gov.au/maps/index.htm>

Postcode/Locality/SLA File (June 2000)

DHS' postcodes and localities file is also available on the Internet at:
<http://hdss.health.vic.gov.au/globalref/index.htm>

Legislation:

Commonwealth:

The following Commonwealth Acts are available on the Internet under the heading 'Commonwealth' at: <http://scaleplus.law.gov.au/>

National Health Act 1953,

Health Insurance Act 1973,

Privacy Act, 1988

Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act, 2000

Victorian:

The following Victorian Acts are available on the internet: <http://www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au/>

Health Act 1958

Health Services Act 1988

Health Records Act 2001

Aged & Disabled Persons Care Act 1954

Annual Reporting Act 1983

Health Services (Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centre) Regulations 1991

Hospital & Charities Commission (Fees) Regulations 1986

Other:

Australia Post website listing of postcodes and localities: www.austpost.com.au/postcodes/

Australian Standard Classification of Countries for Social Statistics, Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), Catalogue No. 1269.0. This document is only available on floppy disk. See also the ABS website at: <http://www.abs.gov.au/>

National Health Data Dictionary, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Version 10, 2001.

Available on the Internet at: <http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/hwi/nhdd10/index.html>

White Pages website permits searches for postcodes and localities:
<http://www.whitepages.com.au/wp/>

Abbreviations Used in the Manual






ASCII	American Standard Code for Information Interchange
CCIHT	Critical Care Inter-Hospital Transfer
CCU	Coronary/Cardiac Care Unit
DHS	Department of Human Services Victoria
DVA	Department of Veterans' Affairs
DWH	Data Warehouse
ED	Emergency Department
EDCG	Emergency Demand Co-ordination Group
EDIS	Emergency Department Information System
ESIS	Elective Surgery Information System
HDSS	Health Data Standards & Systems Unit, Metropolitan Health and Aged Care Services Division, DHS
ICD-10-AM	Statistical Classification of Diseases and Related Health Problems, 10th Revision, Australian Modification
ICU	Intensive Care Unit
LMO	Local Medical Officer
LOS	Length of Stay
MAS	Metropolitan Ambulance Service
MICA	Mobile Intensive Care Ambulance
MUARC	Monash University Accident Research Centre
NHDD	National Health Data Dictionary, Version 11.0, produced by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
NLI	National Localities Index
PRS/2	Patient Reporting System Version 2: Computer system by which hospitals transmit admitted patient data to Department of Human Services
RAV	Rural Ambulance Victoria
SLA	Statistical Local Area
TAC	Transport Accident Commission
VAED	Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset
VEMD	Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset

VISAR Victorian Injury Surveillance and Applied Research System
VISS Victorian Injury Surveillance System

Contact Details





Dataset and submission, VEMD manual:

For general assistance and queries relating to the collection and reporting of VEMD data and about this manual, contact Health Data Standards & Systems Unit (HDSS), DHS:

E-mail 	submit.vemd@dhs.vic.gov.au	Forward data submission and related queries and monthly patient level data and queries
Help-Desk 	(03) 9616 8141	Log call: name, number, specify call is regarding VEMD, message
Fax 	(03) 9616 7629	
Post 	VEMD Coordinator Heath Data Standards & Systems Unit Metropolitan Health & Aged Care Services Department of Human Services 17/555 Collins Street MELBOURNE VIC 3001	
Website 	hdss.health.vic.gov.au/vemd/index.htm	Related documents, reference files

Quality Framework

For queries regarding the Quality Framework - business rules and quality bonus funding for Emergency Department performance:

Contact	Katy Fielding
E-mail 	Katy.Fielding@dhs.vic.gov.au
Telephone 	(03) 9616 8072
Fax 	(03) 9616 8347
Post 	GPO Box 4057

Acknowledgments

EDIS Review Committee representatives during 2001-2002

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