

Section 2: Concept and Derived Item Definitions

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Introduction

This section provides concept definitions and other information relating to data concepts which underlie the SACS MDS. The data items listed in Section 3 relate to these concepts. Guidelines and other information about the clinical and business practice to which these data concepts relate can be found in the *SACS Framework*.

This section also lists data items that the Department will derive from items collected by the SACS MDS. These items are derived for the purposes of accountability reporting, analysis and monitoring of service activity, and service planning. Health Services **do not** need to report these items. However, Health Services may wish to derive these items for their own internal reporting and planning purposes.

The definitions contained in this section are based, wherever possible, on the *National Health Data Dictionary* (version 12.0).

Concept Definitions

Case

Definition

The case groups together all the sub-acute ambulatory care services which are provided to a client over a continuous period by a Health Service.

Guide for use

A case will be opened in response to a referral. This referral may be received from within the Health Service, from another agency, or by the client's self-referral. For further guidance on how clients can access sub-acute ambulatory care services, refer to the *SACS Framework*.

A case will contain one or more client service events. Each client service event must be part of a case.

A client can only have one case open at a Health Service at one time. If new health conditions or functional impairments are acquired by the client or identified by the Health Service while a case is open, the services provided to assess or treat them will form part of the same case.

More than one program of sub-acute ambulatory care can be provided to a client within a single case. For example, on intake, a client who has suffered from a stroke might be identified as needing to access both rehabilitation and specialist cognitive services. During the process of receiving these services, a pre-existing continence issue might be identified and addressed through the provision of specialist continence services. All of this care would be recorded as client service events within a single case. The different programs of care would be identified through the use of the Client Service Event Program item for each client service event.

Refer to:

Section 2: Client Service Event
Section 2: Derived Items: Episode
Section 2: Sub-acute Ambulatory Care
Section 3: Case Start Date
Section 3: Case End Date
Section 3: Client Service Event Program

Client

Definition

A client is a person for whom a Health Service accepts responsibility for providing sub-acute ambulatory care services.

Guide for use

For guidelines regarding the provision of sub-acute ambulatory care services to clients, refer to the *SACS Framework*.

Note that providing sub-acute ambulatory care to a client can encompass the provision of services (e.g. counselling, education) to the client's carer(s) and/or family, whether or not the client is present when these services are delivered. The carer is not, in these situations, considered to be a client in their own right.

Refer to:

Section 2: Sub-acute Ambulatory Care
Section 3: Carer Availability
Section 3: Client Service Event Client Present Status

Client Service Event

Definition An interaction between one or more healthcare professionals with one or more clients for the provision of sub-acute ambulatory care intended to be unbroken in time.

Guide for use Written communication from a health service provider to a client, carer or health professional does **not** constitute a client service event.

Each client service event must be part of a case. Each case must contain one or more client service events.

A client service event may be delivered in a variety of settings (for example, home-based or centre-based), and via a number of delivery modes (for example, face to face or by telephone). A client may experience their client service event in either an individual or a group context. It is possible for a client service event to be delivered when the client is not present for the interaction but their carer is. Separate data elements included in the SACS MDS enable these characteristics of a client service event to be reported.

Refer to:

NHDD 000438 Non-admitted patient service event
Section 2: Case
Section 2: Sub-acute Ambulatory Care
Section 3: Client Service Event Client Present Status
Section 3: Client Service Event Date
Section 3: Client Service Event Delivery Mode
Section 3: Client Service Event Delivery Setting
Section 3: Client Service Event Professional Group
Section 3: Client Service Event Program
Section 3: Client Service Event Provider
Section 3: Client Service Event Session Type
Section 3: Client Service Event Type

Episode

Definition An episode is the period during which a client receives sub-acute ambulatory care within a particular program.

Guide for use The episode start date is considered to be the date of the first client service event with a specific Client Service Event Program. Once a case has been closed, the episode end date is considered to be the date of the last client service event within that Client Service Event Program.

A client may have one or more episodes within a case. For example, within a single case, a client might receive services within a Rehabilitation program, and also services within a Specialist Continence program. This client would be considered to have two episodes within their case.

Episodes will be used for retrospective analysis of patterns of service activity. This will contribute to policy development and service planning.

Health Service

Definition A health care service or a sub-unit of a health service established under Commonwealth, State or Territory legislation, authorised to provide treatment and/or care to patients.

Guide for use The definition includes both metropolitan and rural Health Services.

Sub-acute Ambulatory Care

Definition Sub-acute ambulatory care is non-admitted goal-orientated, time limited, individualised, interdisciplinary care that aims to help people who are disabled, frail, chronically ill or recovering from traumatic injury to regain and/or maintain optimal function, and to allow people to maximise their independence and return to (or remain in) their usual place of residence. It also encompasses interdisciplinary services provided to people who require assessment, diagnosis and/or management for non-acute health issues. It is available to people of all ages and may follow an admitted episode or ambulatory care, or may be accessed directly from the community.

Guide for use **Refer to:** *SACS Framework*

Derived Items

Age

Definition The client's age at the time of case start.

Guide for use Age is calculated as:
Case Start Date minus Date of Birth.

Age is used in analysis of data for service planning purposes.

Episode End Date

Definition The date at which an episode of sub-acute ambulatory care ends.

Guide for use Once a case has been closed, the episode end date is derived from the date of the last client service event within a particular Client Service Event Program.

Episode Start Date

Definition The date at which an episode of sub-acute ambulatory care starts.

Guide for use The episode start date is derived from the date of the first client service event within a specific Client Service Event Program.

Occasions of Service

Definition An occasion of service is considered to be equivalent to a client service event.

Guide for use The Department of Human Services is required to report occasions of service to both the Victorian Government and the Australian Government.