

Circular



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Contact: **Regional Offices**
Distribution: **Public Hospitals**

Subject: **Rehabilitation Patients in Public Hospitals**

This Circular clarifies the classification of rehabilitation facilities and advises of the admission and transfer procedures for rehabilitation patients in public hospitals. It replaces Circular 7/1992 and the rehabilitation guideline in Circular 19/1993.

Designated Rehabilitation Facilities

For the purposes of casemix classification, there are a number of types of care which a hospital can provide for admitted patients. In the document "Definitions for Hospitals in Victoria, May 1993" which was attached to Circular 18/1993, the definition of Episodes of Care refers to four broad Care Types: Acute and Day Surgery; Nursing-Home-Type and Non-Acute; Rehabilitation; and Psychiatric.

In a public hospital, Rehabilitation Care Type is defined as care in a **designated** rehabilitation unit or facility. Hospitals with **designated** rehabilitation facilities for 1993/94 are listed on Attachment 1. This designation has been based upon prior assessment of the rehabilitation facilities and programs together with consideration of the volume of patient discharges for AN-DRG 931 Rehabilitation in 1991/92. The designation covers facilities providing geriatric rehabilitation and geriatric assessment services and will be reviewed periodically.

Quite separate from the classification by the Department of designated rehabilitation facilities for casemix purposes, the Department notes that some rehabilitation facilities have been **approved** by the Health Benefits Council for higher benefit purpose. These **approved** Rehabilitation facilities are listed in Attachment 2.

Admission Procedures

Patients should be admitted to public hospitals, including designated rehabilitation facilities in accordance with the Minimum Criteria for Admission (H&CS Circular 19/1993). Patients attending rehabilitation facilities for rehabilitation on a same day basis should not normally be admitted. They should be treated as non-inpatients. However, where patients attend a Rehabilitation facility **approved** by the Health Benefits Council to receive intensive, multi-disciplinary rehabilitation the patient may be admitted as a Same Day Patient if the rehabilitation program is an accredited program which is approved for Same Day patients.

Patients should be admitted as Same Day Rehabilitation Patients if, and only if, they meet the following criteria:

- (i) attend an accredited rehabilitation program which is **approved** for Same Day Patients within a Rehabilitation facility **approved** by the Health Benefits Council for higher benefit purposes; and
- (ii) attend for two or more therapy interventions; and
- (iii) receive treatment for a period of four hours or more.

According to the Minimum Criteria for Admission, (refer H&CS Circular 19/1993) these patients should be admitted as Type C Exclusion List patients and hence have appropriate certification completed. In order to overcome repetitive certification procedures, the hospital may complete one Type C Certification Form for a Same Day Rehabilitation Patient attending an accredited program. The Certification Form should provide details of the program, the period covered and expected number of same day admissions during the period. Patients who do not meet the above criteria should be classified as Non-Admitted Patients.

Transfer Procedures Within the Same Hospital

When an admitted patient who is transferred to a **designated** Rehabilitation facility in the same hospital the episode must be treated, for patient reporting purposes, as a separate Episode of Care with the "admission" date being the date of transfer to the Rehabilitation facility. Hospitals transmitting data to the PRS/2 System should create a new Episode Record; hospitals using the PRS System should submit a statistical discharge and readmission.

Coding for the Victorian Inpatient Minimum Database

The Department requires patients in **designated** rehabilitation facilities to be coded using Care Type Code 2.


When an admitted patient is transferred to a **designated** Rehabilitation facility in the same hospital, the earlier acute episode and the rehabilitation episode are **each** required to have a Care Type Code, diagnosis codes and procedure codes appropriate to that Episode of Care. The length of stay for each DRG will relate to the length of stay of each Episode of Care. These coding arrangements only apply in hospitals with **designated** Rehabilitation facilities.

Casemix Funding

The provision of a fixed Rehabilitation Grant under the Casemix funding arrangements for public hospitals will apply to all **approved** Rehabilitation facilities funded by Program 306 (Acute Health Services) but is not necessarily confined to those facilities.

Rehabilitation patients treated in other Program 306 funded hospitals, including some **designated** units, will be funded in the same way as for non-rehabilitation patients.

Designated rehabilitation facilities funded under Program 308 (Aged Care Services) are not subject to casemix funding. These facilities will be funded as part of the normal funding arrangements of Program 308.



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Designated Rehabilitation Facilities in Public Hospitals

Funded by Program 306: Acute Health Services

Alfred Group of Hospitals (Caulfield Campus)
Austin Hospital (Heidelberg Campus)
Austin Hospital (Royal Talbot Campus)
Bairnsdale Regional Health Service
Fairfield Hospital
Royal Melbourne Hospital (Essendon Campus)
St George's Inner Eastern Geriatric Services (Henry Pride Campus)
St Vincent's Hospital
Warrnambool and District Base Hospital
Williamstown Hospital

Funded by Program 308: Aged Care

Anne Caudle Centre *
Beechworth
Bethlehem Hospital *
Bundoora Extended Care Centre
Caritas Christi Hospice
Eastern Suburbs Geriatric Centre
Goulburn Valley Base Hospital *
Grace McKellar Centre
Hampton Rehabilitation Hospital
Kingston Centre *
Mt Alexander Hospital
St. George's Inner Eastern Geriatric Services (Victoria Parade Campus)
Mt Eliza Centre *
North West Hospital *
Queen Elizabeth Centre [Ballarat]

* Includes nursing home beds which are scheduled to be reclassified as designated rehabilitation facilities during 1993/94

Approved Rehabilitation Facilities in Public Hospitals

Approved by the Health Benefits Council for higher benefits

Funded by Program 306: Acute Health Services

Alfred Group of Hospitals (Caulfield Campus)
Austin Hospital (Royal Talbot Campus)
Royal Melbourne Hospital (Essendon Campus)
St. Vincent's Hospital

Funded by Program 308: Aged Care

Anne Caudle Centre
Queen Elizabeth Centre [Ballarat]