

A patient is a surgical patient from and including the day before the service is rendered, unless the particular advanced surgical procedure to be rendered requires a longer pre-operative period.

Separation

The process by which a **same day patient** or an **overnight patient** completes an **episode of care**.

A separation may be **formal** or **statistical**.

- **Formal:** The administrative process by which a hospital records the completion of treatment and/or care and accommodation of a patient. This will be because -

- the patient is discharged to private accommodation or other residence;
- the patient is transferred to other health care accommodation;
- the patient dies;
- the patient leaves against medical advice; or
- the patient fails to return from leave of absence within seven days and is therefore discharged.

- **Statistical:** The administrative process by which a hospital records the completion of treatment and/or accommodation:

- following a change of Care Type (transfer between Care Types) occurring within the one hospital stay (for example, transfer from acute to Nursing Home Type care or transfer from acute to rehabilitation in a designated rehabilitation unit for the purpose of Care Type 2);
- designated Acute Admission Units funded by Program 307 for purpose of Care Type 5: the patient fails to return from leave of absence (any type including leave for treatment or special care at another hospital and leave which is unauthorised) within seven days. Discharge is effective from the first day of leave. (PRISM reports such statistical separations as formal separations for the purpose of monthly reporting.)