

NHCDC

22



The National Hospital Cost Data Collection (NHCDC) is an annual collection of hospital cost data at the line-item level. NHCDC data are provided to the Independent Hospital Pricing Authority (IHPA) from each jurisdiction's Department of Health.

The Round 22 NHCDC collected public hospital cost information for the 2017–18 financial year. [The NHCDC Cost Report](#) contains detailed summary tables of all reported figures.

What is the cost of Australia's admitted acute care patients?

Admitted acute care is provided to patients who are formally admitted to hospital to receive active but short-term treatment.

The treatment goal for these patients is to:

- Cure, treat or relieve symptoms of illness or injury
- Reduce severity of an illness or injury and protect against complications
- Perform surgery
- Perform diagnostic or therapeutic procedures
- Manage childbirth



The national expenditure on admitted acute care patient activity was

\$29.41 billion

62.4%

This represents 62.4% of total hospital expenditure reported in the NHCDC in Round 22



Round 21
\$27.67 billion

Round 20
\$26.19 billion

2.40 days

The average length of stay for admitted acute care separations was **2.4 days**.

In 56.3 percent of admitted acute care separations, the patient was admitted and separated from the hospital on the same day.

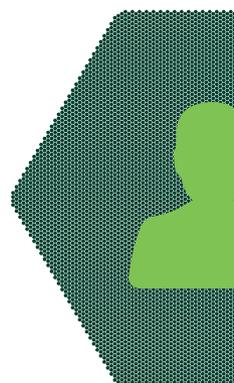
When these same-day separations are excluded, the average length of stay was 4.19 days.

Round 21 **2.43 days**
Round 20 **2.56 days**

The average cost per admitted acute care separation was

\$4,885

Round 21 **\$4,792** | Round 20 **\$4,842**



Number of hospitals that submitted admitted acute care cost data



6,019,172

The data contains detailed cost information for 6,019,172 admitted acute care patient separations.

The separations were represented by 794 different Australian Refined-Diagnosis Related Groups (AR-DRGs) Version 10.0. The most commonly reported related to haemodialysis, chemotherapy and chest pain.

Taken together, admitted acute care accounted for 16.8% of all hospital patient activity reported to Round 22 of the NHDC.

16.8 PERCENT

Comparing patient complexity

To compare costs between jurisdictions, IHPA uses 'weighted patient separations'. A weighted separation considers the relative complexity associated with treating each patient. This is based on the average cost required to treat that separation type at the national level.

For example, in Round 22, a single heart transplant patient separation accounts for 38.7 weighted separations. A colonoscopy accounts 0.45 of a weighted separation. This reflects the greater complexity of heart transplants.

If a jurisdiction's average cost per weighted separation is lower than the actual average, its mix of services provided to patients is more complex than the national average.



Results across Australia

NSW	R20	R21	R22
Avg cost per sep (\$)	5,264	5,096	5,267
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	4,759	4,689	4,737
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	47%	48%	48%
Avg length of stay (days)	3.18	2.88	2.86
Avg length of stay (days) - exc. SD	5.09	4.59	4.57

VIC	R20	R21	R22
Avg cost per sep (\$)	4,144	4,156	4,282
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	4,377	4,329	4,563
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	61%	61%	61%
Avg length of stay (days)	2.28	2.25	2.23
Avg length of stay (days) - exc. SD	4.27	4.19	4.17

QLD	R20	R21	R22
Avg cost per sep (\$)	4,435	4,534	4,523
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	4,698	4,731	4,720
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	56%	58%	59%
Avg length of stay (days)	2.21	2.14	2.09
Avg length of stay (days) - exc. SD	3.78	3.71	3.64

SA	R20	R21	R22
Avg cost per sep (\$)	5,903	5,627	6,032
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	5,395	5,230	5,644
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	49%	50%	51%
Avg length of stay (days)	2.81	2.73	2.68
Avg length of stay (days) - exc. SD	4.56	4.48	4.43

WA	R20	R21	R22
Avg cost per sep (\$)	5,803	6,011	5,827
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	5,875	6,036	5,821
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	57%	58%	59%
Avg length of stay (days)	2.29	2.23	2.16
Avg length of stay (days) - exc. SD	4.01	3.95	3.85

TAS	R20	R21	R22
Avg cost per sep (\$)	5,134	5,323	5,772
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	4,721	4,754	5,188
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	55%	53%	54%
Avg length of stay (days)	2.53	2.71	2.66
Avg length of stay (days) - exc. SD	4.41	4.67	4.63

NT	R20	R21	R22
Avg cost per sep (\$)	3,703	3,666	3,697
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	6,430	6,150	6,231
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	71%	71%	72%
Avg length of stay (days)	2.01	1.97	1.93
Avg length of stay (days) - exc. SD	4.50	4.40	4.26

ACT	R20	R21	R22
Avg cost per sep (\$)	5,841	5,325	5,319
Avg cost per weighted sep (\$)	5,684	5,163	5,057
Same-day (SD) as % of all seps	55%	55%	54%
Avg length of stay (days)	2.66	2.57	2.58
Avg length of stay (days) - exc. SD	4.64	4.46	4.42