Australian Mental Health Care Classification

Reference to Changes for AMHCC Version 1.1

IHACPA

Australian Mental Health Care Classification – Reference to Changes for AMHCC V1.1 – December 2023

Contents

Abbreviations and acronyms

ABF	Activity based funding
ABF MHC DRS	ABF Mental Health Care Data Request Specifications
ABF MHC NBEDS	Activity based funding: Mental health care national best endeavours data set
AMHCC	Australian Mental Health Care Classification
HoNOS	Health of the Nation Outcome Scales
HoNOS 65+	Health of the Nation Outcome Scale 65+
HoNOSCA	Health of the Nation Outcome Scales for Children and Adolescents
IHACPA	Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority
LSP	Life Skills Profile
LSP-16	Abbreviated Life Skills Profile
MHLS	Mental Health Legal Status
MHPoC	Mental Health Phase of Care
NOCC	National Outcomes and Casemix Collection

Executive summary

The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) developed the Australian Mental Health Care Classification (AMHCC) as the national classification for mental health care for activity based funding, clinical management and other purposes. The AMHCC Version 1.0 (V1.0) was approved by the IHACPA's board Pricing Authority on 25 February 2012 and was implemented on a best endeavours basis from 1 July 2016.

Development of the AMHCC V1.0 involved defining mental health services, identifying mental health care specific cost drivers, conducting a mental health consumer level costing study, and the undertaking of cost modelling. The AMHCC V1.0 was developed to provide more accurate and consistent data about the services provided across different mental health care settings. The AMHCC is a clinically relevant classification that better explains resource consumption (cost) at the consumer level. It has the potential to support integrated service delivery by providing data across different service settings and health services.

In 2021, IHACPA identified the need to update the AMHCC due to annual improvements in data volume, quality and coverage as the existing complexity model was derived from the 2014 costing study, which consisted of data from 26 mental health services collected over six months. In 2022, in consultation with mental health care and jurisdictional stakeholders IHACPA developed the AMHCC Version 1.1 (V1.1) which included new methodology for the AMHCC complexity model.

The AMHCC V1.1 is a modest refinement of AMHCC V1.0. The classification structure and variables remain the same with six variables being utilised to determine an end class: episode setting, Mental Health Phase of Care (MHPoC), age group, Mental Health Legal Status (MHLS), Health of the Nation Outcome Scale (HoNOS) and the Abbreviated Life Skills Profile (LSP-16).

The key changes for AMHCC V1.1 include the recalibration of the complexity model by updating HoNOS weights and thresholds, and LSP-16 thresholds using 2018–19 to 2020–21 national activity and costed mental health data. In addition, phases with up to two missing HoNOS items attract a valid complexity score in AMHCC V1.1, in line with the National Outcomes and Casemix Collection rules. The AMHCC V1.1 was finalised December 2023. The information contained in this document relates to changes to AMHCC V1.0 for V1.1.

1. AMHCC Version 1.1 Documentation

There are three key documents that support the understanding and application of the Australian Mental Health Care Classification (AMHCC):

- AMHCC User Manual
- AMHCC Version 1.1 (V1.1) Final Report
- AMHCC grouper User Guides

Together, these documents provide a comprehensive view of both the AMHCC structure and details of both AMHCC Version 1.0 (V1.0) and V1.1.

AMHCC User Manual

The AMHCC User Manual was designed to provide detailed information for users of AMHCC V1.0 and provides the foundational information regarding the AMHCC structure and variables.

This document provides background to the development of the AMHCC V1.0, in addition to explaining the data elements and collection protocols, reporting requirements, and how the data is grouped.

Due to no structural changes to the AMHCC V1.1, the AMHCC User Manual can be used in conjunction with the Reference to Changes to understand the features impacted by AMHCC V1.1.

More details can be found AMHCC User Manual.

AMHCC Version 1.1 Final Report

This document provides the detailed statistical analysis undertaken in the development of AMHCC V1.1 including the key changes to the classification and methodology of the refinement.

More details can be found AMHCC V1.1 Final Report.

AMHCC grouper user guides

The AMHCC grouper user guides provide details of the AMHCC grouper application, including the input and output data specifications, and a step-by-step guide to how data is grouped to its end class.

The AMHCC grouper application have been developed by IHACPA to assist state and territory health departments and hospitals to group hospital mental health care data to the AMHCC V1.0 and AMHCC V1.1 classification system. Both grouper versions can be found on the IHACPA website.

2. AMHCC Version 1.1 reference to changes

The Australian Mental Health Care Classification (AMHCC) Version 1.1 (V1.1) is a modest refinement of AMHCC Version 1.0 (V1.0). The classification structure and variables remain the same with six variables being utilised to determine an end class: episode setting, Mental Health Phase of Care (MHPoC), age group, Mental Health Legal Status (MHLS), Health of the Nation Outcome Scale (HoNOS) and the Abbreviated Life Skills Profile (LSP-16).

The key changes for AMHCC V1.1 include the recalibration of the complexity model by updating HoNOS weights and thresholds, and LSP-16 thresholds. In addition to allowing phases with up to two missing HoNOS item scores to attract a valid complexity score, in line with the National Outcomes and Casemix Collection rules.

The AMHCC V1.1 changes are highlighted below in **Table 1**. Due to the structure and variables remaining the same, only features impacted by AMHCC V1.1 are listed with section references for both V1.0 and V1.1. This table is to be used in conjunction with the AMHCC User Manual and AMHCC V1.1 Final Report as specific sections of each document are referenced.

Table 1 references where changes in AMHCC V1.1 are documented.

Table1. AMHCC V1.0 and AMHCC V1.1 features documentation.

Feature	Change	Version 1.0	Version 1.1
Structure	-	Refer to Section 3 of AMHCC V1.0 User Manual	
Data items and variables	-	Refer to Section 4 of AMHCC V1.0 User Manual	
Calculation of HoNOS complexity score	-	Refer to Section 5.1 of AMHCC V1.0 User Manual	
HoNOS weights and thresholds	HoNOS weight and complexity split thresholds have been recalibrated using national mental health care data from 2018–19, 2019–20 and 2020–21.	Table 1 under Section 5.1 of the AMHCC User Manual.	Table 12 at Appendix D of the AMHCC V1.1 Final Report.
Calculation of LSP-16 complexity score	-	Refer to Section 5.1 of AMHCC V1.0 User Manual	
LSP-16 thresholds	LSP-16 complexity split threshold values have been recalibrated using national mental health care data from 2018–19, 2019–20 and 2020–21.	Table 1 under Section 5.1 and Table 3 under Section 5.2 of the AMHCC User Manual.	Table 12 at Appendix D of the AMHCC V1.1 Final Report.
AMHCC end classes	Two end classes will be inactive in AMHCC V1.1 including: 1. Admitted, Consolidating gain, 0-17 years, High HoNOS complexity 2. Admitted, Consolidating gain, 0-17 years, Moderate HoNOS complexity.	Appendix 1 of the AMHCC User Manual.	Table 10 at Appendix C of the AMHCC V1.1 Final Report.

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