



EMERGENCY
MEDICINE

Emergency Medicine Programme

Implementation Guide 3:

The Standardisation of ED Data Definitions

January 2013

Overview



- The EMP recommends that standardised definitions are applied to cohorts of ED attendances to ensure reliable comparison of data across all hospitals.
- The ED SDU Process Data-points have been agreed and are being implemented in all EDs.
- The following definitions of ED activity data are undergoing consultation on an agreed suite of definitions to be used across all services, the HSE and the Department of Health in relation to emergency care data.

For a full list of draft ED activity data definitions please see EMP First Steps Implementation Guidance Document. Comments are welcome to emp@rcsi.ie

ED SDU Process Datapoints

Measure	Definition
a ED Arrival to Triage Time	Includes : All new ED patients and GP referred AM patients transferred to AMU after triage Excludes: Patients who leave after registration but before triage
b Arrival to Time Seen by Treating Clinician	Includes : All new ED patients Excludes: GP referred patients to AMAU/AMU transferred directly to AM after triage.
c Arrival to Time seen by Treating Clinician	Includes : All new ED patients Excludes: Patients in other triage categories GP referred patients to AMAU/AMU transferred directly to AM after triage.
d Time Seen by Treating Clinician to Disposition Decision	Includes: All new ED patients Excludes: GP referred patients to AMAU/AMU transferred directly to AM after triage.
e Disposition Decision to Time seen by Admitting or Consulting Team	Includes: All new ED patients referred for admission/consultation Excludes: Patients with disposition decision of ED discharge or Transfer other hospital; GP referred patients to AMAU/AMU transferred directly to AM after triage.
f Time Seen by Admitting or Consulting Team to Time of Completion of Assessment by Admitting/Consulting Team	Includes: All new ED patients referred for admission/consultation Excludes: Patients with disposition decision of ED discharge or Transfer other hospital GP referred patients to AMAU/AMU transferred directly to AM after triage.
g Disposition Decision to Departure.	Includes: All new ED patients Excludes: GP referred patients to AMAU/AMU transferred directly to AM after triage.
h CDU length of stay	Includes: All patients admitted to the CDU i.e. under the care of Consultants in EM.
i Total ED Time	Includes : All new ED patients Excludes: GP referred patients to AMAU/AMU transferred directly to AM after triage.

Examples of Activity Definitions (I)



New ED Patient Attendance:

A patient who attends an ED requesting emergency care for the first time with a particular problem and any patient transferred to or admitted through an ED who requires EM clinical care or resources.

Scheduled Return:

A patient for whom a subsequent ED visit is arranged but who remains under the care of EM. This may include patients attending EM review clinics.

Unscheduled ED Return Patient 7 days:

A patient who returns with the same problem within 7 days of the initial ED visit.

Unscheduled ED Return Patient 28 days:

A patient who returns with the same problem within 7 days of the initial ED visit.

Paediatric Patient: Patient aged < 16 years (Operational, not legal definition).

Older ED patients: Patient aged > 65 years. Older ED patients aged 80 years and older are a specified subset.

Examples of Activity Definitions (II)



Left before completion of treatment:

A patient who registers but leaves the ED before discharge by a clinician. This includes patients leaving against medical advice and between registration and triage.

Total patient referrals for admission/consultation:

EM patients with Disposition Decision of referral for admission/consultation to a non-EM team (includes AM referral after EM assessment).

Patients referred but not admitted:

Proportion of new patients referred for admission at disposition decision who are discharged by admitting/consulting teams (i.e. not an EM clinician).

Examples of Activity Definitions (II)



Number of admissions through ED:

The total of New and Unscheduled Return patients admitted to the same hospital, including patients admitted from ED review clinics.

Patient Transferred out to Other Hospital:

An EM patient whose care needs cannot be met in the same hospital or whose care needs can be met in another healthcare facility within the hospital network.

Transfer in:

A patient transferred in to an ED from other hospital or other part of same hospital or accommodated in ED while waiting admission under non-EM team. These are not considered to be new ED attendances unless they require ED resources. They should be identifiable as a separate patient group.

Further development



A further list of data definitions is included in the EMP Report 2012.

The proposed ED Information System procurement and implementation will require standardised datasets to be used.

Further data definition and standardisation will include development of a standardised terminology for diagnostic coding at the end of the ED care episode.