

Glossary of health-related terminology

This document contains a glossary of data sources, terminology and abbreviations used within the Measures Library. It provides a common vocabulary to avoid misunderstandings and misinterpretations. Words often have a variety of meanings and might hold different meanings for people depending on their lived experiences. It is important to note that this is not an all-encompassing list and does not capture all the nuances of the terms.

Contact the Health Quality & Safety Commission for more information: info@hqsc.govt.nz.

Term	Description
<u>Acute care</u>	Providing appropriate, timely, proper, and effective management of conditions with sudden onset and rapid progression.
Adjustment applied	A set of procedures is employed to improve the data coverage, classification, timing and/or valuation.
<u>Adverse drug events</u>	An unintended or unexpected consequence associated with the use of a medicine.
Aged residential care (ARC) funding	This database contains information on the number of people living in ARC facilities.
<u>Average length of stay (ALOS)</u>	Sum of bed days for patients discharged in the period (ie, lengths of stay), divided by the number of discharges.
Ambulatory sensitive hospitalisations	Hospitalisation or death due to causes that a preventative or therapeutic programme could have avoided.
Antimicrobial resistance	The broader term for resistance in different microorganisms (eg, bacteria, viruses, parasites, or fungi). It encompasses resistance to antibacterial, antiviral, antiparasitic, and antifungal drugs.
Broad-spectrum antibiotics	A class of antibiotics that act against an extensive range of disease-causing bacteria by targeting both gram-positive and gram-negative bacterial groups.
Contributory measures	These measures assist in the achievement of the System Level Measures and are chosen locally by district alliances based on local needs, demographics, and service configurations. These are used to measure local progress against quality improvement activities.
<u>Culturally appropriate care</u>	A health care approach that understands the influence of cultural values and beliefs (for the patient and provider) in health care delivery and provides care to address cultural needs.
Data sources	Identifies the data source(s) necessary to implement the measure.
Denominator	The lower part of a fraction is used to calculate a rate, proportion, or ratio. The denominator is associated with a patient population that may be counted as eligible to meet a measure's inclusion requirements.

Description	A detailed summary of measure specifications, such as medical conditions to be measured, outcomes or results that could or should result from the care specified in the measure for these patient populations.
Emergency department (ED)	Emergency departments are essential to Aotearoa New Zealand's health care system, treating people with severe illness injuries requiring urgent attention. There are close to 1 million ED attendances in Aotearoa New Zealand every year.
<u>Estimated resident population</u>	Estimates describe the size and characteristics of the population on a past date.
Exclusions	Inclusion criteria define individuals or events that are removed from the denominator and numerator of a measure.
HbA1c test	The HbA1c test measures your average blood glucose (sugar) levels over three months. It is used in two ways: to diagnose type 2 diabetes and to check your blood glucose levels if you have already been diagnosed with type 2 diabetes.
Health district assignment	Refers to the health district used to calculate the measure. The health district of domicile refers to the district responsible for people living in a particular geographical district. The health district of service refers to the district accountable for providing the health service. <i>Note: The term district health board (DHB) has been updated to 'health district assignment' to reflect changes as part of the health system reforms.</i>
<u>Health equity</u>	The Health Ministry's definition of equity is, 'In Aotearoa, New Zealand, people have differences in health that are not only avoidable but unfair and unjust. Equity recognizes different people with different levels of advantage require different approaches and resources to get equitable health outcomes.'
<u>Health inequities/health inequalities</u>	Differences in health determinants and outcomes result from social and structural imbalances and are thus avoidable and preventable.
Inclusions	Inclusion criteria define individuals or events that are included in the denominator and numerator of a measure.
Inhaled corticosteroids (ICS)	Inhaled corticosteroids are prescribed for patients of all ages to treat different levels of persistent asthma. They work by dampening down the inflammation in the airways and are the most effective agents for treating asthma. As a result, asthma symptoms and sudden acute attacks occur less often. <i>More details here.</i>
<u>International Classification of Diseases (ICD)</u>	A medical classification list by the World Health Organization. It contains codes for diseases, signs, symptoms, abnormal findings, complaints, social circumstances, and external causes of injury or diseases.
<u>Laboratory claims collection</u>	This collection contains claim and payment information for community laboratory tests.
Measure name (short)	A short description of the measure.

<u>Mortality collection</u>	This database contains the underlying cause-of-death data for all registered deaths and stillbirths in Aotearoa New Zealand.
<u>National immunisation register (NIR)</u>	A computerised information system that holds immunisation details of children in Aotearoa New Zealand.
<u>National minimum dataset (NMDS)</u>	A national collection of public and private hospital discharge information, including coded clinical data for inpatients and day patients.
<u>National non-admitted patient collection (NNPAC)</u>	This dataset contains non-admitted secondary care events, such as outpatient and ED visits. Non-attendances are also recorded; recording of non-attendances is also mandatory for clinics run by doctors. A non-attendance is where the appointment was not cancelled, but the health care consumer either never arrived or left before being seen by the doctor.
<u>National population projection</u>	National population projections indicate the future population usually living in Aotearoa New Zealand and predict probable outcomes based on different fertility, mortality and migration assumptions.
<u>National resident population</u>	Data on all people who are 'usually resident' in Aotearoa New Zealand.
<u>New Zealand cancer registry</u>	A population-based register of all primary malignant diseases diagnosed in Aotearoa New Zealand, excluding squamous and basal cell skin cancers.
<u>New Zealand primary care patient experience survey</u>	Provides information about patients' experience in primary care and how their overall care is managed between their general practice, diagnostic services, specialists and hospital staff.
<u>Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs)</u>	These are a type of pain relief medication that is used for pain caused by inflammation. They are often used to treat pain and inflammation caused by injury, gout, rheumatoid arthritis, osteoarthritis, headache, dental pain and period pain.
<u>Numerator</u>	The numerator reflects the subset of patients in the denominator for whom a particular service has been provided or achieved a specific outcome.
<u>Pharmaceutical collection (PHARMS)</u>	A data warehouse that supports the management of pharmaceutical subsidies. It contains claim and payment information from pharmacists for subsidised dispensings.
<u>Planned care funding schedule (PCFS)</u>	Contains information on the number of planned care interventions agreed upon between health districts and the Ministry of Health.
<u>Primary health organisation enrolment collection</u>	A national collection that holds primary health care system patient enrolment data. It is used for monitoring patient enrolment and for research.
<u>Programme for the integration of mental health data (PRIMHD)</u>	This data contains information on the provision of secondary mental health and alcohol and drug services funded by the government. This includes secondary inpatient, residential, outpatient and community services provided by DHBs and non-government organisations (NGOs).
<u>Rationale</u>	Details the reason this measure is essential to monitor.
<u>Readmission</u>	Hospital readmission occurs when a patient has been discharged from the hospital and is admitted again within a specific time interval.

Short-acting β-agonist (SABA)	Inhaled or oral drugs that are typically used as 'rescue' medications to relieve asthma symptoms quickly.
Subject	The label used within the Measures Library to group standard measures; it is sometimes reported as a domain.
Suppression rule	Refers to withholding or removing selected information using various methods and restrictions for several reasons such as protecting identifying privacy and personal information of individuals or maintaining the measurement result's stability.
Vulnerable populations	Population groups at greater risk of experiencing poor health outcomes due to social and economic factors, such as place of residence, income, current health status, age, race/ethnicity and distribution of wealth and resources.

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government