



IHACPA

Definitions of emergency care categories for activity based funding purposes

The following table provides a detailed description of the categorisation of emergency care. These definitions have been developed in consultation with the Emergency Care Advisory Working Group and are used to determine which data specification and classification is used by emergency departments and emergency services within public hospitals for activity based funding purposes.

No.	Description	
Emergency services		
1	Services:	Able to provide first aid and treatment prior to referral to a facility able to provide a higher level of service, if necessary.
	Staffing:	Access to a medical practitioner – this may be by telephone.
	Location:	N/A
2	Services:	As for Level 1. Can cope with minor injuries and ailments. Resuscitation and limited stabilisation capacity prior to referral to a facility able to provide a higher level of service.
	Staffing:	As for Level 1 (medical). Nursing staff from ward available to cover emergency presentations. Visiting medical officer (includes general practitioner) on call.
	Location:	Emergency service in a small hospital.
3A	Services:	As for Level 2
	Staffing:	As for Level 2. Designated emergency service nursing staff available 24 hours a day and nursing unit manager. <i>Medical staff available for recall to the hospital within 20 minutes, 24 hours a day.</i> Specialists appropriate to the role delineation of the hospital available for consultation, plus arrangements in place for other specialties. Access to allied health professionals. Specialist psychiatric/mental health assessment personnel available for consultation.
	Location:	Purpose designed area, with full resuscitation facilities in separate area such as a cubicle.
Emergency departments		
3B	Services:	As for Level 3A
	Staffing:	As for Level 2. Designated emergency department nursing staff available 24 hours a day and nursing unit manager. <i>Medical staff available in the hospital 24 hours a day (though may have other commitments in the hospital).</i> Specialists appropriate to the role delineation of the hospital available for consultation, plus arrangements in place for other specialties. Access to allied health professionals. Specialist psychiatric/mental health assessment personnel available for consultation.
	Location:	As for Level 3A



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No.	Description	
4	Services:	Can manage most emergencies. Participation in regional adult retrieval system (rural base hospitals). As for Level 3B.
	Staffing:	Registered nurses with emergency nursing experience or qualifications on site 24 hours a day. Emergency department - specific medical officer(s) on site 24 hours a day. Emergency department Medical director.
	Location:	As for Level 3B
5	Services:	As for Level 4. Has undergraduate and postgraduate teaching and a research program.
	Staffing:	As for Level 4. Access to clinical nurse consultant or similar. Has designated emergency department registrars on site 24 hours a day. Sub-specialists available on rosters.
	Location:	As for Level 4
6	Services:	As for Level 5. Can manage all emergencies and provide definitive care. State-wide referral role and/or major trauma centre.
	Staffing:	As for level 5
	Location:	As for level 5