

# Australian Emergency Care Classification

Reference to Changes for AECC  
Version 1.1

July 2024



## Australian Emergency Care Classification – Reference to Changes for AECC V1.1 – July 2024

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# Abbreviations and acronyms

<b>ABF</b>	Activity based funding
<b>AECC</b>	Australian Emergency Care Classification
<b>ED</b>	Emergency department
<b>IHACPA</b>	Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority
<b>NAPEDC NMDS</b>	Non-admitted patient emergency department care national minimum data set

# Executive summary

The Independent Health and Aged Care Pricing Authority (IHACPA) is responsible for the development of the Australian Emergency Care Classification (AECC). The AECC is a clinically informed classification for emergency departments (ED) used for activity based funding, clinical management and other purposes. The AECC Version 1.0 (V1.0) was approved by the Pricing Authority in July 2019 and was first used to price emergency department presentations from 1 July 2021.

The AECC Version 1.1 (V1.1) is a modest refinement of AECC V1.0 with improved statistical performance in predicting emergency presentation costs. The classification structure and variables remain the same with 6 variables being utilised to determine an end class: visit type, episode end status, principal diagnosis, transport mode (arrival), age and triage category.

The AECC V1.1 incorporates an update to the complexity model based on the most recently available activity and cost data and was finalised in July 2024. The information contained in this document relates to changes to AECC V1.0 for V1.1.

# 1. AECC Version 1.1 Documentation

There are 3 key documents that support the understanding and application of the Australian Emergency Care Classification (AECC):

- AECC Definitions Manual
- AECC Version 1.1 (V1.1) Final Report
- AECC grouper User Guide

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

## AECC Definitions Manual

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

This document provides explanation of the data elements and collection protocols, reporting requirements, and how the data is grouped.

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

More details can be found in the [AECC Definitions Manual](#).

## AECC Version 1.1 Final Report

The AECC Version 1.1 Final Report provides the methodology and outcomes of the statistical analysis undertaken in the development of AECC V1.1, including the key changes to the classification.

More details can be found in the AECC V1.1 Final Report.

## AECC grouper User Guide

The AECC grouper User Guide provides details of the AECC 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 AECC grouper application has been developed by IHACPA to assist state and territory health departments and hospitals to group emergency care data to the AECC V1.0 and AECC V1.1 classification system. Both grouper versions can be found on the IHACPA emergency care [webpage](#).

# 2. AECC Version 1.1

## reference to changes

The Australian Emergency Care Classification (AECC) Version 1.1 (V1.1) is a modest refinement of AECC Version 1.0 (V1.0). The classification structure and variables remain the same with 6 variables being utilised to determine an end class: visit type, episode end status, principal diagnosis, transport mode (arrival), age and triage category.

The key changes for AECC V1.1 include the recalibration of the complexity split thresholds and values used to calculate the complexity score.

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

**Table1. AECC V1.0 and AECC V1.1 features documentation.**

Feature	Change	Version 1.0	Version 1.1
Structure	-	Refer to Section 2 of AECC V1.0 Definitions Manual	
Data items and variables	-	Refer to Section 3 of AECC V1.0 Definitions Manual * Note: The AECC uses variables from the Non-admitted patient emergency department care national minimum data set (NAPEDC NMDS) and the current Metadata Online Registry references of each variable can be found on the <a href="#">IHACPA Data specifications webpage</a> .	
Calculation of complexity score	-	Refer to Section 3 of AECC V1.0 Definitions Manual	
Intercepts, coefficients and complexity split thresholds	Intercepts and coefficients, and complexity split thresholds have been recalibrated using national emergency department data from 2018–19, 2019–20 and 2020–21.	Appendices D–E of the AECC V1.0 Definitions Manual	Tables 11–15 at Appendix D of the AECC V1.1 Final Report.
AECC end classes	-	Appendix A of the AECC Definitions Manual.	Table 10 at Appendix C of the AECC V1.1 Final Report.



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