

APSI data dictionary (summarised) and release rules

Table of Contents

Data dictionary.....	2
Data items relating to the call.....	2
Data items relating to caller.....	3
Data items relating to patients and exposures.....	4
Data items relating to the substance.....	7
Examples of aggregate data tables.....	8
Frequency tables for a particular substance code (or class of substances) e.g. paracetamol, opioids, spiders.....	8
Cross tabs of exposures by selected variables and/or substance codes.....	9
Top 10 substances (names and counts) with filters by other variables (such as age categories, sex, circumstances of exposure).....	11

VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date	Amendment (brief description)	Approved by
220831	31.08.2022	Version 1 as submitted for ethics approval	Project steering committee
230718	18.07.2023	Expansion of information on substance data changes to available fields	Project steering committee

Data dictionary

Data items relating to the call

Variable name	Field Type	Description	Deidentified case listings released under standing approval (i)	Aggregated data released under standing approval (ii)	Release notes
Call type	Drop-down	Indicates the category of the call	Yes	Frequency of calls by category	
Call date/time	Date/time	Date/time	Yes (month/year or ISO week/year only)	Frequency of calls by month and year	Requires strong justification to release full call date and time. Standard output categories include data by week, month or year. Weeks can be provided in line with the ISO (International Organisation for Standardisation) weeks system if required.
State	Drop-down	The state where the patient is located.	Yes	Frequency of calls by state	
Centre ID	Drop-down	Specifies which PIC answered the call	No	No	Not routinely released – for PIC operational purposes only
Central repository Case ID	Alphanumeric	Unique number assigned to each case (does not contain personal identifiers)	Yes	No	Not routinely released. For case listings, data will be provided with a project ID number specific to that request, which cannot be linked back to the Central Case ID.
Call ID	Alphanumeric	Unique number assigned to each call (does not contain personal identifiers)	No	No	Not routinely released – for PIC operational purposes only
Multi-patient event ID	Alphanumeric	Unique number assigned to a group of cases when a call relates to exposure of multiple patients (does not contain personal identifiers)	No	No	Not routinely released – for PIC operational purposes only

Variable name	Field Type	Description	Deidentified case listings released under standing approval (i)	Aggregated data released under standing approval (ii)	Release notes
Reason for query/administrative call	Drop-down	Indicates the type of query/administrative call	Yes	Frequency of calls by category	
Method of communication	Drop-down	Specifies the mode of communication	No	No	Data provided for incoming calls only

Data items relating to caller

Variable name	Field Type	Description	Deidentified case listings released under standing approval (i)	Aggregated data released under standing approval (ii)	Release notes
Hospital/organisation name	Drop-down	Indicates the hospital or other organisation name (such as group home) that the call originates from	No	No	Requires strong justification and additional ethics approval for release at the service level. For example, a hospital requests data relating to their calls to PIC. Aggregation to higher levels for output could be assessed for suitability such as Local Health District.
Hospital call flag	Derived - flag	Flag to indicate if a case originated from a hospital	Yes	Yes	
Referred to PIC by	Drop-down	Indicates who referred the caller to PIC (where relevant)	Yes	Frequency of calls by category	
Category of caller	Drop-down	Describes the caller's relationship to the patient (e.g. patient, carer, ambulance personnel, doctor)	Yes	Frequency of calls by category	
Doctor/nurse type	Free text	The type of doctor or nurse (e.g. RN, EN, GP)	Yes	No	

Data items relating to patients and exposures

Variable name	Field Type	Description	Deidentified case listings released under standing approval (i)	Aggregated data released under standing approval (ii)	Release notes
Patient type	Drop-down	Species of the patient	Yes	Frequency calls by category	
Sex	Drop-down	Sex of the patient	Yes	Frequency calls by category	
Pregnancy status	Derived	Indicates whether the patient is currently pregnant and the gestation period (in weeks)	Yes	No	
Lactating	Tick box	Indicates whether the patient is currently lactating	Yes	No	
Indigenous status	Drop-down	Describes the Indigenous status of the patient	No	No	NMA does not cover Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research. Would require additional ethics approval to release.
Patient age	Numerical	Numerical age of the patient	Yes	No	
Patient age categories	Drop-down	Age category of the patient	Yes	Frequency calls by category	
Patient weight	Numerical	Weight of the patient	Yes	No	
Clinical features list	Check box list (multi-response item)	Reported signs, symptoms and clinical findings associated with the patient's exposure.	Yes	No	
Treatment list	Drop-down	Treatments that were recommended and/or performed in relation to the exposure reported	Yes	No	
Handling	Drop-down	Recommendation about where the patient should be managed, made by a specialist in poisons information (e.g., hospital referral, GP referral)	Yes	Frequency calls by category	
Clinical toxicology referral flag (derived)	Drop-down	Indicates whether a case was referred to a clinical toxicologist	Yes	Frequency calls by category	

Variable name	Field Type	Description	Deidentified case listings released under standing approval (i)	Aggregated data released under standing approval (ii)	Release notes
Clinical toxicology – consult only	Checkbox	Indicates if toxicology was consulted on a case (but not referred)	No	No	
Exposure outcome	Drop-down	Outcome category of the patient following exposure based upon all available information.	Yes	Frequency calls by category	
Case notes - advice and patient history	Free text	Notes/comments outlining the advice provided by the specialist in poisons information.	Yes (cleared of potential and actual identifiers)	No	Requires strong justification for release. Available for case-listing requests only cleared of potential and actual identifiers.
Location of incident	Drop-down	Location where the exposure occurred.	Yes	Frequency calls by category	
Postcode/suburb	Drop-down	Postcode or suburb where the poisoning took place or where the caller is at the time of the query	No (higher geographical area given)	Frequency of calls by LGA or higher	Release of postcode requires strong justification. Higher geographical areas to be provided (e.g. LGA).
Circumstances of exposure	Drop-down	The underlying reason, purpose or intent for which the exposure occurred.	Yes	Frequency calls by category	
Symptoms related to exposure	Drop-down	Refers to whether the patient was symptomatic at <i>any stage</i> following the exposure, not at the time the call is taken. This includes both initial and current symptoms.	Yes	Frequency calls by category	
Initial severity (PSS score)	Drop-down	Poisoning Severity Score (a standardised scale of grading the severity of poisoning) at the time of the initial call.	Yes	Frequency calls by category	
Final severity (PSS score)	Drop-down	Poisoning Severity Score (a standardised scale of grading the severity of poisoning) at time of call follow up (if applicable).	Yes	Frequency calls by category	
Management outcome	Drop-down	Site where the poisoning was managed	Yes	Frequency calls by category	

Data items relating to the substance

Variable name	Field Type	Description	Deidentified case listings released under standing approval (i)	Aggregated data released under standing approval (ii)	Release notes
Substance/agent	Free text	Verbatim description of the substance from the caller (no identifiers in this field)	Yes (cleared of potential and actual identifiers)	No	
Substance/description	Drop-down	Substance list of both pharmaceutical and non-pharmaceutical substances and descriptions.	Yes	Frequency of calls by category	
Substance amount/amount unit	Numerical/drop-down	Amount for each substance involved in an exposure. Entered as the exact amount if known, or estimate of the actual amount, or the maximum possible amount. Substance certainty field indicates confidence in the amount reported or how an estimate was derived	Yes	No	
Route of exposure	Drop-down	Indicates how the substance entered the patient's body	Yes	Frequency of calls by category	
Substance certainty	Drop-down	Confidence in the substance quantity recorded	Yes	No	
Time since exposure	Drop-down	Time since the exposure stopped.	Yes	No	
Type of exposure (chronicity)	Drop-down	Indicates the chronicity of the exposure to each substance	Yes	No	
Substance formulation	Drop-down	Describes the form of pharmaceutical substances of exposure	Yes	No	
Strength/strength units	Numerical/drop-down	Captures the strength of pharmaceutical substances	Yes	No	
Standard/modified release	Tick box	Indicates if the substance is modified release	Yes	No	

Examples of aggregate data tables

Provided below are examples of aggregate data tables to be provided in response to aggregate data requests.

Frequency tables for a particular substance code (or class of substances) e.g. paracetamol, opioids, spiders

Number of exposures cases, 2015-2021	Number of cases
2015	
2016	
2017	
2018	
2019	
2020	
2021	
Total	
Exposure cases by age category, 2021	Number of cases
Neonate	
Infant	
Toddler	
Child	
Adolescent	
Adult	
Elderly	
Total	
Exposure cases by circumstances of exposures, 2021	Number of cases
Unintentional – Environmental	
Unintentional – Occupational	
Unintentional – Therapeutic error	
Unintentional – Misuse	
Unintentional – Food poisoning	
Unintentional - Other	
Unintentional – Unknown	
Intentional – deliberate self-harm	
Intentional – Misuse	
Intentional – illicit or non-medicinal use	
Intentional – Unknown	
Other – Contamination/tampering	
Other – Malicious	
Other – Withdrawal	
Adverse reaction – Drug	
Adverse reaction – Food	

Adverse reaction – Other	
Unknown reason	

Cross tabs of exposures by selected variables and/or substance codes

Handling of calls for adults by sex	Male	Female
No referral required		
In hospital - requires management/observation		
In hospital - below PIC referral level		
Hospital refer		
GP refer		
At GP surgery		
Pharmacy refer		
Other		
Total		

Handling of exposure calls by age group	Neonate	Infant	Toddler	Child	Adolescent	Adult	Elderly
No referral required							
In hospital - requires management/observation							
In hospital - below PIC referral level							
Hospital refer							
GP refer							
At GP surgery							
Pharmacy refer							
Other							
Total							

Location of exposure by circumstances of exposure categories	Unintentional	Intentional	Adverse reaction
Home and surroundings			
Workplace			
Medical - hospital			
Medical - non-hospital			
Aged-care			
Group home			
Education or childcare facility			
Public place (indoor or outside)			
Mode of transport			
Prison			
Other			
Unknown			
Total			

Circumstances of exposure by age and sex	Male		Female	
	Child	Adult	Child	Adult
Unintentional – Environmental				
Unintentional – Occupational				
Unintentional – Therapeutic error				
Unintentional – Misuse				
Unintentional – Food poisoning				
Unintentional - Other				
Unintentional – Unknown				
Intentional – deliberate self-harm				
Intentional – Misuse				
Intentional – illicit or non-medicinal use				
Intentional – Unknown				
Other – Contamination/tampering				
Other – Malicious				
Other – Withdrawal				
Adverse reaction – Drug				
Adverse reaction – Food				
Adverse reaction – Other				
Unknown reason				
Total				

Top 10 substances (names and counts) with filters by other variables (such as age categories, sex, circumstances of exposure).

Top 10 substances - Deliberate self-poisoning cases	Number of cases
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Top 10 substances - Accidental self-poisoning cases	Number of cases
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Top 10 substances - Child cases	Number of cases
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Top 10 substances - Adult cases	Number of cases
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Top 10 substances- female adolescent cases	Number of cases
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Top 10 substances -male adolescent cases	Number of cases
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	