



# Ensuring Accurate Discharge/Visit Disposition and Institution To Assignment

This job aid will assist you in the correct assignment of Discharge Abstract Database/National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (DAD/NACRS) **Discharge/Visit Disposition** and **Institution To** data elements. These — in addition to the CIHI-assigned **institution type** and the **Institution From** data element (where applicable) — are used to track the transition of patients between health care settings.

It is mandatory to record the Institution To data element for DAD Discharge Dispositions 10, 20, 30 and 40 and NACRS Visit Dispositions 30 and 40 when a patient is transferred directly to another level of care within the reporting facility or to another health care facility for further care.

The Institution To field is not mandated for Discharge/Visit Disposition 90 — Correctional Facility but can be recorded to further specify the type of facility.

The institution number, recorded in the Institution To field, is associated with a CIHI institution type. CIHI-assigned institution types are used to describe the type of care or service provided to the patient. Standardized institution type definitions allow for accurate distinctions between care settings and support services, enabling pan-Canadian comparisons of similar types of care. CIHI’s Disposition Reference Guides contain comprehensive lists of province/territory-specific institution numbers and their corresponding CIHI institution type/description and disposition. The Disposition Reference Guides are available in the [DAD/NACRS Abstracting Manual web tool](#) (log in required).

The tables below show the correct CIHI institution type assignments, for use in the Institution To field, when DAD/NACRS Dispositions 10, 20, 30, 40 and 90 are recorded.

**Table 1** DAD Discharge Dispositions and Institution To types

| DAD Dispositions  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DO assign one of these Institution To types  |
|---|--|
| <b>10 — Inpatient Care</b><br>(inpatient acute, rehabilitation, psychiatry, chronic/complex continuing care, specialty hospitals) | 1 — Acute care institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including those with an acute psychiatric unit</li> </ul> 2 — Inpatient rehabilitation institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including general and specialty rehab hospitals</li> </ul> 3 — Inpatient chronic/complex continuing care institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide medically complex and skilled nursing care, higher level of care than a nursing home, for patients with long-term illness</li> </ul> 5 — Inpatient mental health institutions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Including free-standing or speciality psychiatric hospitals (may include short- and/or long-term psychiatric and substance abuse disorders)</li> </ul> |



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|---|--|
|   | <p><b>Tips!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not assign institution types N (Ambulatory Care), A (Day Surgery) or E (Emergency Department). Patients transferred directly to the ambulatory care setting of another institution are assigned disposition 20.</li> <li>If it is unknown which level of care a patient is transferred to, select the Institution To number representing the highest level of care (e.g., acute versus ambulatory care).</li> <li>Do not assign institution type T (Mental Health &amp; Addiction Centre). These are community-based residential care settings (not inpatient) and are assigned disposition 30.</li> <li>Do not assign institution type 4 (Long-Term Care). Although long-term care facilities provide 24-hour nursing care, they do not represent inpatient care.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>DAD Dispositions</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>DO assign one of these Institution To types</b>   |
| <p><b>20 — ED and Ambulatory Care</b><br/>(emergency department [ED], day surgery, ambulatory care clinics, nursing stations)</p> | <p>E — Emergency Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Including hospital-based EDs, free-standing (stand-alone) EDs and urgent care centres</li> </ul> <p>A — Day Surgery</p> <p>N — Ambulatory Clinic</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Usually a hospital-based ambulatory care clinic but may also be free-standing; includes direct transfers to an ambulatory care setting, not referrals to an ambulatory clinic post-discharge</li> </ul> <p>6 — Nursing Station</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May be referred to as Red Cross Outposts</li> <li>Occasionally inpatients are treated in such a setting</li> </ul> <p><b>Tip!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patients transferred directly to an ED or other ambulatory care setting should not be assigned an Institution To number representing acute care (institution type 1) or any other inpatient care types (type 2, 3 and 5).</li> </ul> |

**Table 2** DAD Discharge Dispositions and NACRS Visit Dispositions

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| <b>DAD and NACRS Dispositions</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Do assign one of these Institution To types</b>  |
| <p><b>30 — Residential Care</b><br/>(long-term care: 24-hour nursing, mental health/addiction centre, hospice/palliative care facility)</p> | <p>4 — Long-Term Care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Including long-term care centres that provide 24-hour nursing care</li> <li>Local terminology varies (e.g., extendicare, personal care home, nursing home, health centre, care centre)</li> <li>Refer to the Disposition Reference Guides for province/territory-specific terms assigned institution type 4</li> </ul> <p>T — Mental Health &amp; Addiction Centre</p> |

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|---|---|
|   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Residential treatment centres (community-based, not in an acute care facility) that provide 24-hour care, including detox and withdrawal management</li> </ul> <p>P — Hospice/Palliative Care Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A hospice facility is not to be confused with inpatient palliative care (institution type 9), which is a hospice unit within a hospital</li> </ul> <p><b>Tips!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Do not assign institution type G — Group Living/ Supportive Housing. Institutions assigned type G are mapped to disposition 40. Type G should not be confused with residential care as it represents a lower level of care than long-term care.</li> <li>Ensure that institution types representing inpatient care (1, 2, 3 and 5) are assigned to DAD disposition 10 or NACRS dispositions 06 to 09, as these do not represent residential care. Note that institution type 3 (chronic/complex continuing care) provides a higher level of care than long-term care (type 4).</li> <li>Do not assign institution type C — Correctional Facility. Residential facilities that are part of the continuum of correctional services are assigned disposition 90.</li> </ul> |
| <b>DAD Dispositions</b>   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>DO assign one of these Institution To types</b>  |
| <p><b>40 — Group/ Supportive Living</b><br/>(assisted living, supportive housing, transitional housing, shelters)</p> | <p>G — Group Living/Supportive Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A non-institutional community residential setting that integrates a shared living environment with varying degrees of supportive services (e.g., meal service) and sometimes staff supervision (professional services)</li> <li>Also includes group home, retirement residence and senior’s lodge</li> </ul> <p>H — Transitional Housing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A community setting providing food and shelter on a short-term basis, including shelters, hostels and hotels</li> </ul> <p><b>Tip!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Long-term care (type 4) provides a higher level of support (24-hour nursing) and is mapped to disposition 30, not 40.</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>90 — Correctional Facility</b><br/>(jail, prison, halfway house)</p>  | <p>C — Correctional Facility</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An institution operated by the local, provincial or federal government for persons sentenced by a criminal court to incarceration (includes any correctional facility as part of the continuum of correctional services)</li> </ul> <p><b>Tip!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Includes residential facilities (halfway houses), where offenders are allowed to serve part of their sentence under supervision in the community (usually facilitated by Correctional Service of Canada).</li> </ul>  |



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