

Admitted Patients

Hospital Quarterly:

Performance of
NSW public hospitals

April to June 2011

People are admitted to hospital for a variety of reasons, such as surgery or childbirth. When a person is admitted to hospital, they begin what is termed an 'episode of care'. This covers a single type of care such as acute care, rehabilitation or palliative care. Sometimes, a change in the medical needs of a person can require that they start a second or third episode during the same period of stay in hospital.

Healthcare professionals monitor episodes to better understand local medical needs and to allow planning for hospital beds, waiting lists and staffing.

The report finds there were 412,497 admitted patient episodes during April to June 2011, 11,637 (+3%) more than the same quarter in 2010 and 27,740 (+7%) more than the same quarter two years ago. There has been an expected increase

in admitted episodes since the previous quarter due to the annual pattern of lower admissions during the first three months of the year.

Patients admitted for acute care or maternity and birth comprised 97% of all admitted episodes. Most of these episodes (56%) were admitted for one night or more (overnight admissions) and this percentage has not changed over the past nine quarters. Patients stayed a total of 1,360,866 bed days during the quarter and, on average, these patients stayed 3.4 days in hospital. There were 18,254 babies born, up 2% from the same quarter one year ago.

This is one of three *Hospital Quarterly* modules. For the Emergency Departments and Elective Surgery modules visit www.bhi.nsw.gov.au

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From April to June 2011 ...	Same period last year ...	The difference ...
There were 412,497 admitted patient episodes	400,860 episodes	11,637 (+3%)
42% of all episodes were planned admissions	42%	unchanged
18,254 babies were born	17,924 babies	330 (+2%)
Acute episodes comprised 97% of all admitted patient episodes	97% episodes	unchanged
56% of all acute episodes were for one night or more	56%	unchanged
Acute patients stayed a total of 1,360,866 bed days in hospital	1,322,234 bed days	38,632 bed days (+3%)
Acute admitted patients stayed an average length of 3.4 days	3.4 days	unchanged

Number of admitted patient episodes

In the April to June 2011 quarter, there were 412,497 admitted patient episodes of care in NSW public hospitals, up from 396,616 in the last quarter. Each year there is a seasonal peak in the number of admitted patient episodes during the July to September quarter. The lowest number of admitted patient episodes occurs during the January to March quarter. These seasonal patterns are illustrated in Figure 1.

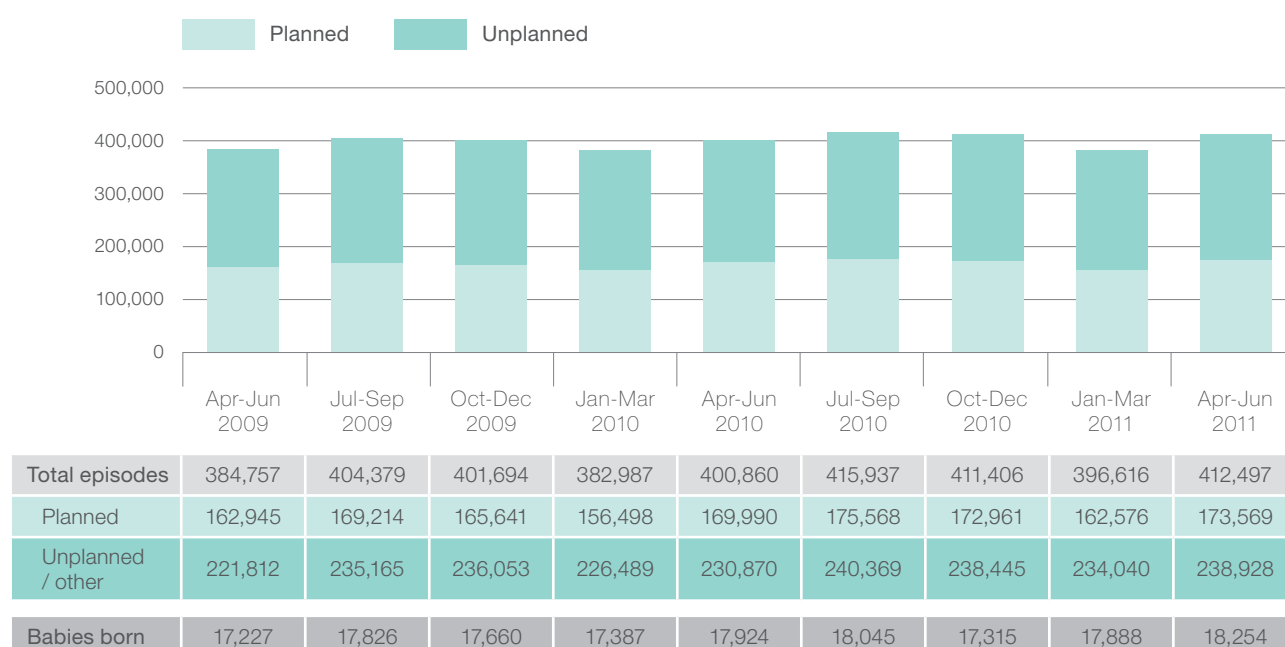
The number of admitted patient episodes in NSW public hospitals has increased over time, up from 400,860 episodes in the same quarter one year ago (3%) and from 384,757 episodes two years ago (7%).

Admitted patient episodes can be either 'planned' (arranged in advance so the hospital can organise what care is needed) or 'unplanned / other' (which include emergency admissions or unplanned surgical patients).

During April to June 2011, there were 173,569 planned admitted patient episodes and 238,928 were unplanned (Figure 1). Planned episodes accounted for 42% of all admitted patient episodes.

An admission for childbirth is considered 'unplanned' and approximately one in every 13 unplanned episodes was for childbirth. During the quarter, there were 18,254 babies born in NSW public hospitals, up from 17,924 the same time one year ago.

Figure 1: Planned and unplanned admitted patient episodes in NSW public hospitals, April 2009 to June 2011



Note: Only babies born in NSW public hospitals and multi-purpose services are included in this count.

Note: Numbers might differ slightly from those reported in previous *Hospital Quarterly* reports and in the NSW Department of Health's *Quarterly Hospital Performance Report* due to differences in when data were extracted.

Source: Admitted Patient Data Collection. Health Information Exchange, NSW Health. Data extracted on 18 July 2011.

Number of acute patients

Admitted patient episodes may be for acute care or subacute care (such as rehabilitation or palliative care). This section focuses on acute care, which is typically a short-term admission for immediate care. For this report, maternal and newborn admissions are also included under the category of acute episodes. Examples of acute care include hip replacement surgery and medical care following a heart attack. Acute episode activity is presented in [Figure 2](#).

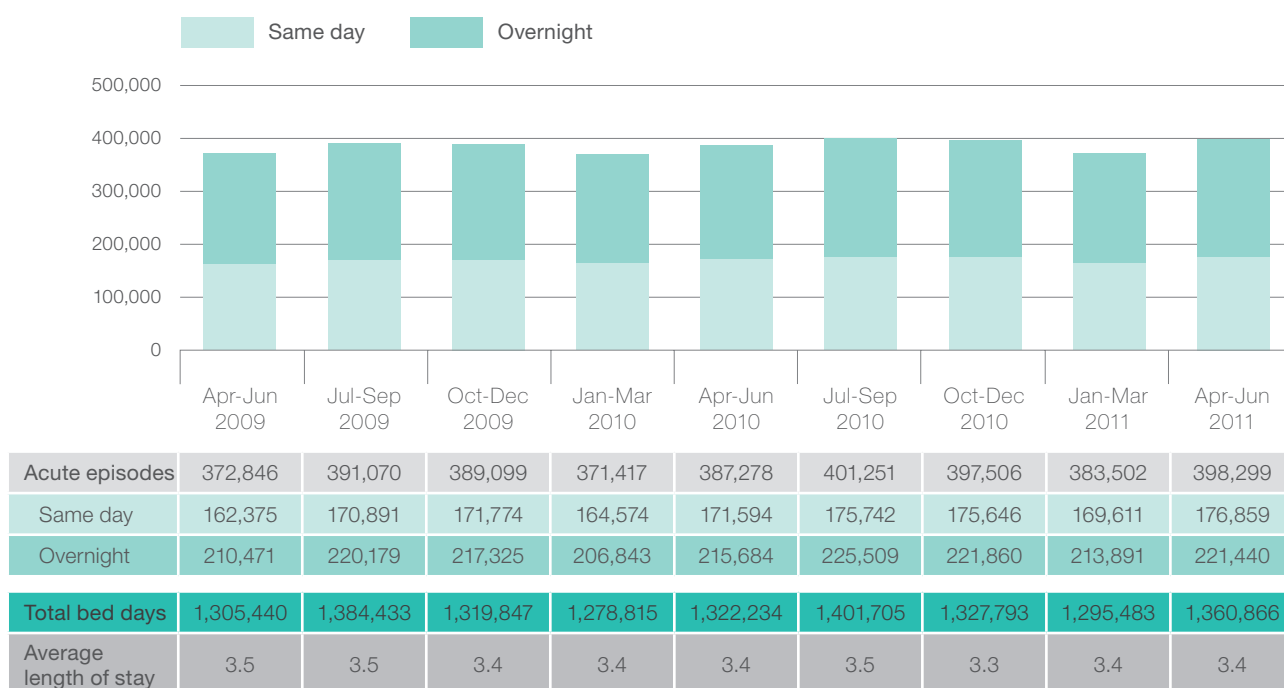
In the April to June 2011 quarter, there were 398,299 acute admitted patient episodes, up from 383,502 last quarter. The number of

acute episodes in NSW public hospitals has been increasing, up from 387,278 episodes in the same quarter one year ago (3%) and from 372,846 episodes two years ago (7%).

Acute admitted patient episodes can be either **same day** (admitted for a single day or part of a day to have a test, to receive surgery or another procedure) or **overnight** (admitted for one or more nights in hospital).

During April to June, there were 176,859 same day episodes (44% of acute admitted episodes) and 221,440 overnight episodes (representing 56%) as shown in [Figure 2](#).

Figure 2: Same day and overnight acute admitted patient episodes in NSW public hospitals, April 2009 to June 2011



Note: Numbers might differ slightly from those reported in previous *Hospital Quarterly* reports and in the NSW Department of Health's *Quarterly Hospital Performance Report* due to differences in when data were extracted.

Source: Admitted Patient Data Collection. Health Information Exchange, NSW Health. Data extracted on 18 July 2011.

Hospital bed use for acute patients

Total acute bed days provides information about how many patients are admitted to NSW hospitals and how long they stay. Patients admitted for acute episodes stayed a total of 1,360,866 days in hospital beds during this quarter, up from 1,295,483 in the previous quarter.

The number of occupied bed days in NSW public hospitals has been increasing, up from a total of 1,322,234 bed days in the same quarter one year ago (3%) and from 1,305,440 bed days two years ago (4%).

The average length of stay in hospital among acute patients (including same day patients) has remained largely unchanged over the past two years at 3.4 days (Figure 2).

Table 1 presents the admitted patient episode activity for public hospitals in NSW. Data are presented by local health district for all principal referral, paediatric specialist, ungrouped acute – tertiary referral, major metropolitan, major non-metropolitan and district groups 1 and 2 hospitals. Information from smaller hospitals is presented for each local health district under the 'other' category.

Table 1: NSW admitted patient activity by hospital and local health district, April to June 2011

	All episodes			Acute episodes			
	Total episodes	Planned	Unplanned / other	Same day	Overnight	Total acute bed days	Average length of stay (days)
New South Wales							
Total New South Wales	412,497	173,569	238,928	176,859	221,440	1,360,866	3.4
Central Coast Local Health District (CCLHD)							
Gosford Hospital	12,114	5,114	7,000	4,940	7,008	42,897	3.6
Wyong Hospital	6,388	2,892	3,496	3,040	3,136	21,556	3.5
Other CCLHD*	264	13	251	0	24	264	11.0
Total CCLHD	18,766	8,019	10,747	7,980	10,168	64,717	3.6
Far West Local Health District (FWLHD)							
Broken Hill Base Hospital	1,844	1,028	816	1,040	779	4,833	2.7
Other FWLHD	155	12	143	37	112	540	3.6
Total FWLHD	1,999	1,040	959	1,077	891	5,373	2.7
Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD)							
Armidale and New England Hospital	2,340	1,138	1,202	1,083	1,224	6,286	2.7
Belmont Hospital	1,727	791	936	423	1,302	6,879	4.0
Calvary Mater Newcastle	3,711	980	2,731	1,147	2,485	13,397	3.7
Cessnock District Hospital	1,009	433	576	419	567	2,792	2.8
Gunnedah District Hospital	612	250	362	238	359	1,761	2.9
Inverell District Hospital	1,072	392	680	490	530	2,111	2.1
John Hunter Hospital	19,071	9,635	9,436	9,163	9,618	62,928	3.4
Kurri Kurri District Hospital	663	505	158	446	196	1,741	2.7
Maitland Hospital	4,001	902	3,099	695	3,233	15,044	3.8

	All episodes			Acute episodes			
	Total episodes	Planned	Unplanned / other	Same day	Overnight	Total acute bed days	Average length of stay (days)
Manning Base Hospital	4,451	2,195	2,256	2,138	2,195	12,868	3.0
Moree District Hospital	1,002	503	499	439	550	2,218	2.2
Muswellbrook District Hospital	903	431	472	459	442	1,957	2.2
Narrabri District Hospital	555	129	426	178	365	1,367	2.5
Singleton District Hospital	1,226	657	569	680	541	2,516	2.1
Tamworth Base Hospital	5,572	2,673	2,899	2,494	2,976	17,143	3.1
Other HNELHD	3,415	779	2,636	722	2,537	27,396	8.4
Total HNELHD	51,330	22,393	28,937	21,214	29,120	178,404	3.5
Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD)							
Bulli District Hospital	531	113	418	219	53	309	1.1
Milton and Ulladulla Hospital	706	52	654	247	459	2,461	3.5
Shellharbour Hospital	4,347	1,657	2,690	2,449	1,833	13,298	3.1
Shoalhaven and District Memorial Hospital	5,847	2,419	3,428	3,149	2,636	14,068	2.4
Wollongong Hospital	12,287	4,042	8,245	5,418	6,856	46,465	3.8
Other ISLHD*	569	38	531	*	*	313	13.6
Total ISLHD	24,287	8,321	15,966	11,483	11,859	76,914	3.3
Justice Health (including admission data for the Forensic Mental Health Network)							
Total Justice Health	628	438	190	50	571	18,064	29.1
Mid North Coast Local Health District (MNCLHD)							
Bellinger River District Hospital	351	66	285	114	189	1,535	5.1
Coffs Harbour Base Hospital	7,036	3,472	3,564	3,383	3,548	20,729	3.0
Kempsey Hospital	2,933	1,024	1,909	1,865	1,006	6,103	2.1
Macksville District Hospital	700	301	399	270	413	2,646	3.9
Port Macquarie Base Hospital	4,732	1,871	2,861	1,635	3,012	15,472	3.3
Other MNCLHD	708	458	250	470	188	2,016	3.1
Total MNCLHD	16,460	7,192	9,268	7,737	8,356	48,501	3
Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD)							
Deniliquin Health Service	690	176	514	267	365	1,588	2.5
Griffith Base Hospital	2,385	1,011	1,374	1,182	1,146	5,219	2.2
Tumut Health Service	532	55	477	211	309	1,091	2.1
Wagga Wagga Base Hospital	6,719	2,967	3,752	3,278	3,343	17,336	2.6
Young Health Service	758	171	587	372	379	1,493	2.0
Other MLHD	3,857	503	3,354	1,174	2,242	10,528	3.1
Total MLHD	14,941	4,883	10,058	6,484	7,784	37,255	2.6
Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD)							
Blue Mountains District Anzac Memorial Hospital	928	241	687	149	675	4,274	5.2
Lithgow Health Service	1,072	329	743	589	452	2,311	2.2
Nepean Hospital	13,457	4,375	9,082	5,089	8,139	44,478	3.4
Other NBMLHD	953	*	*	218	623	3,137	3.7
Total NBMLHD	16,410	5,892	10,518	6,045	9,889	54,200	3.4

All episodes				Acute episodes			
	Total episodes	Planned	Unplanned / other	Same day	Overnight	Total acute bed days	Average length of stay (days)
Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSWLHD)							
Ballina District Hospital	2,192	1,394	798	1,716	393	4,084	1.9
Casino and District Memorial Hospital	837	372	465	407	401	2,200	2.7
Grafton Base Hospital	3,528	2,048	1,480	2,061	1,389	7,396	2.1
Lismore Base Hospital	6,377	2,886	3,491	2,613	3,643	19,850	3.2
Maclean District Hospital	777	137	640	259	442	2,223	3.2
Murwillumbah District Hospital	1,565	722	843	723	755	3,501	2.4
The Tweed Hospital	8,016	3,229	4,787	3,609	4,340	20,145	2.5
Other NNSWLHD	1,247	494	753	283	763	3,584	3.4
Total NNSWLHD	24,539	11,282	13,257	11,671	12,126	62,983	2.6
Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD)							
Hornsby and Ku-Ring-Gai Hospital	4,060	1,220	2,840	993	2,936	16,563	4.2
Manly District Hospital	3,276	637	2,639	955	2,279	12,355	3.8
Mona Vale and District Hospital	3,998	1,716	2,282	1,851	1,945	10,493	2.8
Royal North Shore Hospital	13,176	4,975	8,201	4,664	8,163	52,452	4.1
Ryde Hospital	2,554	651	1,903	937	1,534	9,864	4.0
Other NSLHD	2,437	1,150	1,287	426	1,293	20,405	11.9
Total NSLHD	29,501	10,349	19,152	9,826	18,150	122,132	4.4
South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD)							
Prince of Wales Hospital	10,566	5,700	4,866	4,992	5,404	41,947	4.0
Royal Hospital for Women	3,701	520	3,181	1,062	2,639	12,970	3.5
St George Hospital	13,577	5,601	7,976	5,315	7,794	48,107	3.7
Sutherland Hospital	6,202	2,258	3,944	1,985	3,656	20,662	3.7
Sydney Hospital / Sydney Eye Hospital	2,746	1,424	1,322	1,544	1,199	6,359	2.3
Other SESLHD [†]	2,010	1,414	596	*	*	*	1.3
Total SESLHD	38,802	16,917	21,885	14,900	20,693	130,049	3.7
South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD)							
Bankstown / Lidcombe Hospital	8,580	2,587	5,993	2,811	5,542	32,331	3.9
Bowral and District Hospital	2,136	631	1,505	983	1,140	5,279	2.5
Camden Hospital	537	227	310	246	131	1,885	5.0
Campbelltown Hospital	7,938	2,029	5,909	1,995	5,918	31,475	4.0
Fairfield Hospital	4,371	1,060	3,311	947	3,278	13,974	3.3
Liverpool Hospital	22,078	11,431	10,647	12,867	8,951	65,001	3.0
Other SWSLHD [†]	952	431	521	12	401	1,404	3.4
Total SWSLHD	46,592	18,396	28,196	19,861	25,361	151,349	3.3
Southern NSW Local Health District (SNSWLHD)							
Bateman's Bay District Hospital	1,392	535	857	769	558	2,699	2.0
Bega District Hospital	2,012	911	1,101	963	996	5,595	2.9
Cooma Health Service	821	256	565	295	515	2,247	2.8
Goulburn Base Hospital	2,415	1,163	1,252	1,098	1,286	7,396	3.1
Moruya District Hospital	1,791	851	940	942	813	3,679	2.1
Pambula District Hospital	553	91	462	187	314	1,582	3.2

	All episodes			Acute episodes			
	Total episodes	Planned	Unplanned / other	Same day	Overnight	Total acute bed days	Average length of stay (days)
Queanbeyan Health Service	1,228	323	905	623	579	3,020	2.5
Other SNSWLHD	754	48	706	190	330	1,698	3.3
Total SNSWLHD	10,966	4,178	6,788	5,067	5,391	27,916	2.7
St Vincent's Health Network (SVHN)							
St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst	9,668	5,097	4,571	5,368	4,297	33,478	3.5
Other SVHN*	526	228	298	*	*	72	9.0
Total SVHN	10,194	5,325	4,869	5,369	4,304	33,550	3.5
Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN)							
Sydney Children's Hospital	4,916	2,586	2,330	2,648	2,267	12,315	2.5
The Children's Hospital at Westmead	7,084	3,870	3,214	3,153	3,931	24,992	3.5
Total SCHN	12,000	6,456	5,544	5,801	6,198	37,307	3.1
Sydney Local Health District (SYDLHD)							
Canterbury Hospital	4,305	1,148	3,157	1,082	3,080	13,293	3.2
Concord Hospital	12,380	8,090	4,290	7,262	4,870	44,783	3.7
RPAH Institute of Rheumatology and Orthopaedics	436	*	*	81	355	1,510	3.5
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	17,192	8,248	8,944	7,396	9,772	67,809	3.9
Other SYDLHD	1,364	*	*	52	1,025	5,324	4.9
Total SYDLHD	35,677	17,918	17,759	15,873	19,102	132,719	3.8
Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD)							
Bathurst Base Hospital	2,834	1,315	1,519	1,231	1,513	7,804	2.8
Cowra District Hospital	756	231	525	307	438	1,981	2.7
Dubbo Base Hospital	5,321	2,564	2,757	2,448	2,863	13,155	2.5
Forbes District Hospital	1,082	639	443	697	365	1,915	1.8
Mudgee District Hospital	979	355	624	477	493	2,221	2.3
Orange Base Hospital	5,441	2,478	2,963	2,493	2,843	14,709	2.8
Parkes District Hospital	674	143	531	209	443	1,744	2.7
Other WNSWLHD	3,695	935	2,760	1,383	2,128	12,034	3.4
Total WNSWLHD	20,782	8,660	12,122	9,245	11,086	55,563	2.7
Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD)							
Auburn Hospital	4,900	1,310	3,590	2,278	2,542	9,839	2.0
Blacktown Hospital	6,646	1,518	5,128	1,416	5,172	30,013	4.6
Mount Druitt Hospital	3,340	1,197	2,143	1,279	1,829	5,315	1.7
Westmead Hospital (all units)	23,301	11,879	11,422	12,189	10,437	69,384	3.1
Other WSLHD	436	*	*	14	411	9,319	21.9
Total WSLHD	38,623	15,910	22,713	17,176	20,391	123,870	3.3

(*) Suppressed due to small numbers and to protect privacy.

(‡) The majority of admissions for smaller hospitals in this LHD are for non-acute admissions resulting in low numbers of patients classified as either 'overnight' or 'same day'.

Source: Admitted Patient Data Collection. Health Information Exchange, NSW Health. Data extracted on 18 July 2011.

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State Health Publication Number: (BHI) 110186
ISSN 1838-3238

Suggested citation: Bureau of Health Information.
Hospital Quarterly: Performance of NSW public hospitals, April to June 2011. Admitted Patients. 2(2).
Sydney (NSW); 2011.

Published September 2011

Please note that there is the potential for minor revisions of data in this report. Please check the online version at www.bhi.nsw.gov.au for any amendments.