

Admitted Patients

Hospital Quarterly:

Performance of
NSW public hospitals

April to June 2012

People are admitted to hospital for a variety of reasons, such as surgery, illness 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 clinical needs and to allow planning for hospital beds, waiting lists and staffing.

The report shows there were 426,358 admitted patient episodes during April to June 2012, 12,343 (+3%) more than the same quarter in 2011 and 25,553 (+6%) more than the same quarter two years ago. There has been an expected increase

in admitted episodes since the previous quarter due to the seasonal dip in the number of admissions during January to March.

Patients admitted for acute care or maternity and birth comprised 97% of all admitted episodes. More than half of these patients (56%) were admitted for one night or more (overnight admissions) and this percentage is largely unchanged over the past nine quarters. Patients stayed a total of 1,393,433 bed days during the quarter and, on average, each episode of care was 3.4 days. There were 18,281 babies born, similar to 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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During the quarter	Apr-Jun 2012	Apr-Jun 2011	The difference
Admitted patient episodes	426,358 episodes	414,015 episodes	+12,343 (+3%)
Admitted patient episodes considered to be planned	41% planned	42% planned	-1 percentage point
Babies born	18,281 babies	18,264 babies	unchanged
Admitted patient episodes considered to be acute	97% acute	97% acute	unchanged
Acute episodes that were overnight admissions	56% overnight	56% overnight	unchanged
Total bed days for acute admitted patient episodes	1,393,433 days	1,370,545 days	+22,888 (+2%)
Average length of stay for acute admitted patient episodes	3.4 days	3.4 days	unchanged

Number of admitted patient episodes

In the April to June 2012 quarter, there were 426,358 admitted patient episodes of care in NSW public hospitals, up from 412,905 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](#).

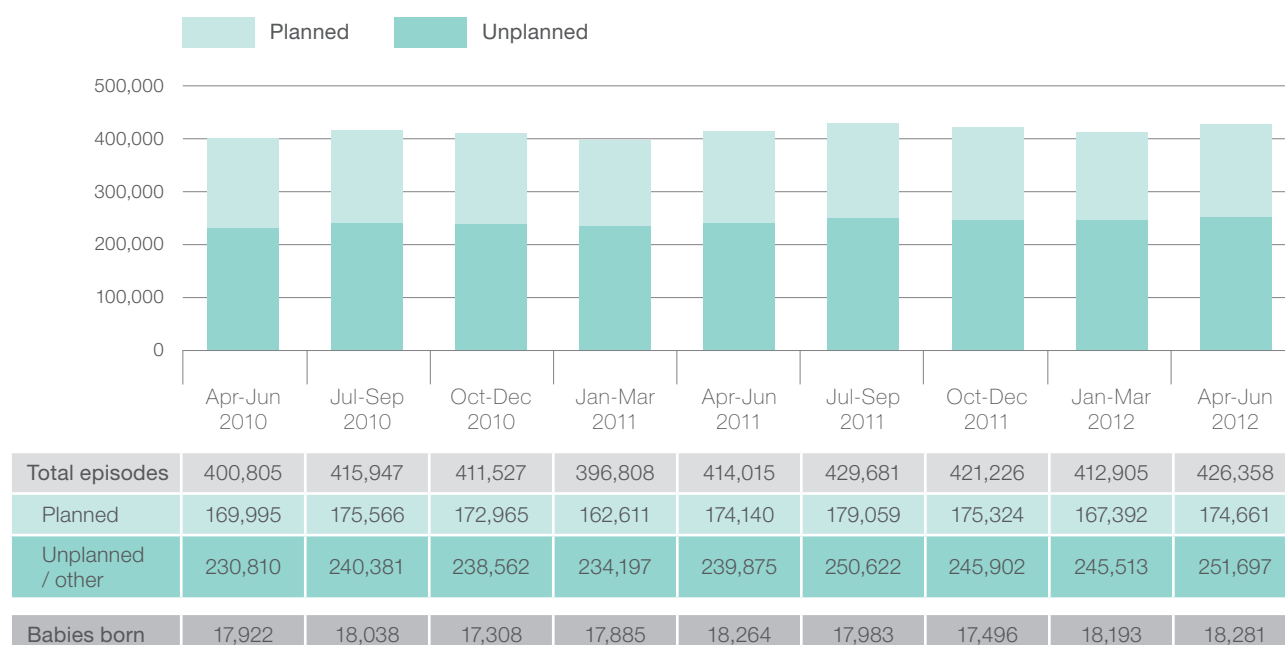
The number of admitted patient episodes in NSW public hospitals has increased over time, up from 414,015 episodes in the same quarter one year ago (3%) and from 400,805 episodes two years ago (6%).

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 the quarter there were 174,661 planned admitted patient episodes and 251,697 were unplanned ([Figure 1](#)). Planned episodes accounted for 41% of all admitted patient episodes.

An admission for childbirth is considered '*unplanned*' and approximately one in every 14 unplanned episodes was for childbirth. During the quarter, there were 18,281 babies born in NSW public hospitals, similar to the same time one year ago.

Figure 1: Planned and unplanned admitted patient episodes in NSW public hospitals, April 2010 to June 2012



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 Ministry 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 20 July 2012.

Number of acute patient episodes

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](#).

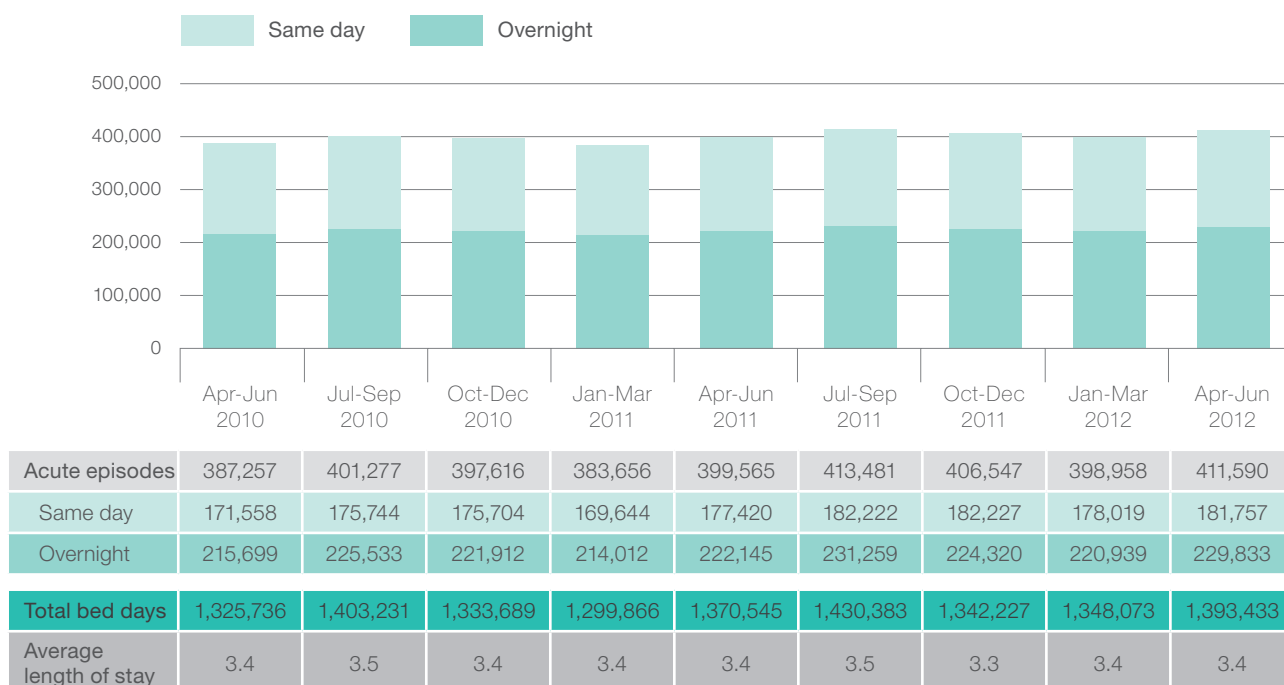
In the April to June 2012 quarter, there were 411,590 acute admitted patient episodes, up from 398,958 in the last quarter. The number

of acute episodes in NSW public hospitals has been increasing for comparable quarters, up from 399,565 episodes (3%) in the same quarter one year ago and from 387,257 episodes (6%) two years ago.

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 181,757 same day episodes (44% of acute admitted episodes) and 229,833 overnight episodes (representing 56%) as shown in [Figure 2](#).

Figure 2: Same day and overnight acute admitted patient episodes in NSW public hospitals, April 2010 to June 2012



Note: Numbers might differ slightly from those reported in previous *Hospital Quarterly* reports and in the NSW Ministry 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 20 July 2012.

Hospital bed use for acute patients

Total acute bed days is the sum of all the lengths of time acute patients stayed in NSW hospitals. The number of acute bed days in NSW public hospitals has been increasing. This quarter there were 1,393,433 total acute bed days. This is 2% higher than the same quarter one year ago (1,370, 545) and 5% higher than the same quarter two years ago (1,325,736).

Average length of stay is influenced by the different types of patients that a hospital provides care for.

The average length of stay for acute admitted patient episodes (including same day patients) has remained largely unchanged over the past two years at about 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 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 2012

	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	426,358	174,661	251,697	181,757	229,833	1,393,433	3.4
Central Coast Local Health District (CCLHD)							
Gosford Hospital	12,166	5,049	7,117	4,854	7,107	42,844	3.6
Wyong Hospital	6,680	2,994	3,686	3,258	3,159	22,655	3.5
Other CCLHD [†]	165	*	*	*	*	278	25.3
Total CCLHD	19,011	8,043	10,803	8,112	10,266	65,777	3.6
Far West Local Health District (FWLHD)							
Broken Hill Base Hospital	1,951	985	966	951	964	5,201	2.7
Other FWLHD	124	*	*	37	82	490	4.1
Total FWLHD	2,075	985	966	988	1,046	5,691	2.8
Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD)							
Armidale and New England Hospital	2,255	1,060	1,195	988	1,221	6,331	2.9
Belmont Hospital	1,750	786	964	445	1,226	6,535	3.9
Calvary Mater Newcastle	3,926	1,049	2,877	1,254	2,549	13,637	3.6
Cessnock District Hospital	1,060	478	582	472	583	3,608	3.4
Forster Private Hospital (Public Contracted Beds)	92	24	68	31	54	310	3.6
Gunnedah District Hospital	552	243	309	248	288	1,155	2.2
Inverell District Hospital	1,116	422	694	525	546	2,082	1.9
John Hunter Hospital	19,334	9,487	9,847	9,210	9,790	61,272	3.2
Kurri Kurri District Hospital	673	512	161	425	197	1,543	2.5

	All episodes			Acute episodes			
	Total episodes	Planned	Unplanned / other	Same day	Overnight	Total acute bed days	Average length of stay (days)
Maitland Hospital	4,154	887	3,267	749	3,331	15,955	3.9
Manning Base Hospital	5,078	2,553	2,525	2,526	2,470	13,782	2.8
Moree District Hospital	1,063	624	439	562	464	2,150	2.1
Muswellbrook District Hospital	961	450	511	480	480	2,416	2.5
Narrabri District Hospital	539	106	433	150	374	1,373	2.6
Singleton District Hospital	1,178	551	627	614	552	2,181	1.9
Tamworth Base Hospital	5,782	2,794	2,988	2,615	3,043	16,952	3.0
Other HNELHD	3,279	854	2,425	742	2,385	20,476	6.5
Total HNELHD	52,792	22,880	29,912	22,036	29,553	171,758	3.3
Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD)							
Bulli District Hospital	493	117	376	193	55	262	1.1
Milton and Ulladulla Hospital	746	49	697	238	508	2,733	3.7
Shellharbour Hospital	5,028	2,103	2,925	3,038	1,862	14,738	3.0
Shoalhaven and District Memorial Hospital	5,850	2,123	3,727	2,945	2,809	13,928	2.4
Wollongong Hospital	12,464	3,852	8,612	5,218	7,172	46,266	3.7
Other ISLHD*	609	26	583	0	50	363	7.3
Total ISLHD	25,190	8,270	16,920	11,632	12,456	78,290	3.3
Justice Health (including admission data for the Forensic Mental Health Network)							
Total Justice Health	661	507	154	118	526	14,266	22.2
Mid North Coast Local Health District (MNCLHD)							
Bellinger River District Hospital	404	88	316	175	161	1,068	3.2
Coffs Harbour Base Hospital	7,448	3,348	4,100	3,309	3,799	21,185	3.0
Kempsey Hospital	2,821	1,012	1,809	1,821	932	5,562	2.0
Macksville District Hospital	754	265	489	223	409	1,558	2.5
Port Macquarie Base Hospital	4,971	2,142	2,829	1,840	3,072	15,261	3.1
Other MNCLHD	716	374	342	526	138	1,759	2.6
Total MNCLHD	17,114	7,229	9,885	7,894	8,511	46,393	2.8
Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD)							
Deniliquin Health Service	664	150	514	231	361	1,486	2.5
Griffith Base Hospital	2,827	1,216	1,611	1,507	1,250	5,838	2.1
Tumut Health Service	597	77	520	245	340	1,260	2.2
Wagga Wagga Base Hospital	7,504	3,293	4,211	3,711	3,682	18,870	2.6
Young Health Service	789	199	590	394	383	1,402	1.8
Other MLHD	4,545	658	3,887	1,516	2,481	10,706	2.7
Total MLHD	16,926	5,593	11,333	7,604	8,497	39,562	2.5
Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD)							
Blue Mountains District Anzac Memorial Hospital	1,043	273	770	182	757	4,259	4.5
Lithgow Health Service	1,123	348	775	620	474	2,695	2.5
Nepean Hospital	14,190	4,686	9,504	5,390	8,490	44,153	3.2
Other NBMLHD	909	899	10	209	625	3,059	3.7
Total NBMLHD	17,265	6,206	11,059	6,401	10,346	54,166	3.2

All episodes

Acute episodes

Total episodes	Planned	Unplanned / other	Same day	Overnight	Total acute bed days	Average length of stay (days)
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Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSWLHD)							
Ballina District Hospital	2,226	1,326	900	1,723	400	3,918	1.8
Casino and District Memorial Hospital	883	332	551	454	406	2,391	2.8
Grafton Base Hospital	3,448	1,911	1,537	1,887	1,424	6,772	2.0
Lismore Base Hospital	6,383	2,765	3,618	2,502	3,802	20,919	3.3
Maclean District Hospital	924	251	673	429	456	2,993	3.4
Murwillumbah District Hospital	1,556	691	865	683	767	3,398	2.3
The Tweed Hospital	7,913	3,199	4,714	3,463	4,382	20,997	2.7
Other NNSWLHD	1,311	357	954	499	644	3,233	2.8
Total NNSWLHD	24,644	10,832	13,812	11,640	12,281	64,621	2.7

Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD)							
Hornsby and Ku-Ring-Gai Hospital	4,256	1,049	3,207	844	3,265	17,895	4.4
Manly District Hospital	3,602	694	2,908	1,021	2,555	13,505	3.8
Mona Vale and District Hospital	4,113	1,818	2,295	1,918	2,025	10,462	2.7
Royal North Shore Hospital	14,654	5,559	9,095	5,656	8,695	54,083	3.8
Ryde Hospital	2,778	716	2,062	1,009	1,700	9,745	3.6
Other NSLHD	2,760	1,189	1,571	464	1,426	51,671	27.3
Total NSLHD	32,163	11,025	21,138	10,912	19,666	157,361	5.1

South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD)							
Prince of Wales Hospital	10,062	5,783	4,279	4,772	5,098	40,622	4.1
Royal Hospital for Women	3,769	479	3,290	1,137	2,632	12,603	3.3
St George Hospital	13,992	5,475	8,517	5,329	8,147	49,804	3.7
Sutherland Hospital	6,639	2,104	4,535	1,950	4,181	22,697	3.7
Sydney Hospital / Sydney Eye Hospital	2,484	1,332	1,152	1,262	1,220	5,951	2.4
Other SESLHD [†]	1,613	999	614	16	*	48	2.0
Total SESLHD	38,559	16,172	22,387	14,466	21,278	131,725	3.7

South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD)							
Bankstown / Lidcombe Hospital	11,089	3,385	7,704	4,896	5,963	33,580	3.1
Bowral and District Hospital	2,134	590	1,544	948	1,177	5,417	2.5
Camden Hospital	543	254	289	272	87	809	2.3
Campbelltown Hospital	10,118	3,202	6,916	3,897	6,198	33,618	3.3
Fairfield Hospital	7,297	3,486	3,811	3,478	3,689	17,791	2.5
Liverpool Hospital	17,212	6,824	10,388	7,716	9,296	62,582	3.7
Other SWSLHD [†]	952	432	520	10	404	1,368	3.3
Total SWSLHD	49,345	18,173	31,172	21,217	26,814	155,165	3.2

Southern NSW Local Health District (SNSWLHD)							
Bateman's Bay District Hospital	1,484	616	868	866	552	2,748	1.9
Bega District Hospital	2,012	937	1,075	954	974	4,853	2.5
Cooma Health Service	875	286	589	358	492	2,117	2.5
Goulburn Base Hospital	2,563	1,172	1,391	1,210	1,307	7,674	3.0
Moruya District Hospital	1,946	980	966	1,057	851	4,021	2.1

	All episodes			Acute episodes			
	Total episodes	Planned	Unplanned / other	Same day	Overnight	Total acute bed days	Average length of stay (days)
Queanbeyan Health Service	2,099	1,095	1,004	1,390	697	4,145	2.0
Other SNSWLHD	1,268	130	1,138	430	602	3,161	3.1
Total SNSWLHD	12,247	5,216	7,031	6,265	5,475	28,719	2.4
St Vincent's Health Network (SVHN)							
St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst	9,649	4,914	4,735	5,125	4,517	32,140	3.3
Other SVHN*	515	215	300				
Total SVHN	10,164	5,129	5,035	5,125	4,517	32,140	3.3
Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN)							
Sydney Children's Hospital	4,741	2,378	2,363	2,379	2,362	12,151	2.6
The Children's Hospital at Westmead	7,514	3,694	3,820	3,040	4,474	23,504	3.1
Total SCHN	12,255	6,072	6,183	5,419	6,836	35,655	2.9
Sydney Local Health District (SYDLHD)							
Canterbury Hospital	4,288	1,166	3,122	972	3,186	14,867	3.6
Concord Hospital	12,825	8,433	4,392	7,678	4,856	46,925	3.7
RPAH Institute of Rheumatology and Orthopaedics	417	*	*	63	354	1,538	3.7
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	18,101	8,459	9,642	7,876	10,212	65,322	3.6
Other SYDLHD	1,347	0	1,347	51	997	5,185	4.9
Total SYDLHD	36,978	18,058	18,503	16,640	19,605	133,837	3.7
Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD)							
Bathurst Base Hospital	2,945	1,403	1,542	1,301	1,554	7,973	2.8
Cowra District Hospital	854	267	587	369	469	2,013	2.4
Dubbo Base Hospital	5,257	2,274	2,983	2,187	3,058	13,970	2.7
Forbes District Hospital	1,127	652	475	693	419	2,177	2.0
Mudgee District Hospital	931	352	579	439	488	2,348	2.5
Orange Base Hospital	5,779	2,489	3,290	2,459	3,123	17,224	3.1
Parkes District Hospital	607	177	430	206	386	1,623	2.7
Other WNSWLHD	3,144	439	2,705	868	2,069	10,986	3.7
Total WNSWLHD	20,644	8,053	12,591	8,522	11,566	58,314	2.9
Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD)							
Auburn Hospital	4,949	1,239	3,710	2,322	2,549	9,588	2.0
Blacktown Hospital	7,039	1,467	5,572	1,506	5,457	29,995	4.3
Mount Druitt Hospital	3,607	1,117	2,490	1,280	2,096	5,643	1.7
Westmead Hospital (all units)	22,262	11,947	10,315	11,638	10,036	67,141	3.1
Other WSLHD	468	22	446	15	442	7,626	16.7
Total WSLHD	38,325	15,792	22,533	16,761	20,580	119,993	3.2

(*) Suppressed due to small numbers and to protect privacy. Suppressed data have been excluded from LHD totals.

(‡) 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 20 July 2012.

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The Bureau of Health Information provides the community, healthcare professionals and the NSW Parliament with timely, accurate and comparable information on the performance of the NSW public health system in ways that enhance the system's accountability and inform efforts to increase its beneficial impact on the health and wellbeing of the people of NSW.

The Bureau is an independent, board-governed statutory health corporation. The conclusions in this report are those of the Bureau and no official endorsement by the NSW Minister for Health, the NSW Ministry of Health or any other NSW public health organisation is intended or should be inferred.

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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.