

# Admitted Patients

## Hospital Quarterly:

Performance of  
NSW public hospitals

### July to September 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 426,086 admitted patient episodes during July to September 2011, 10,185 (+2%) more than the same quarter in 2010 and 21,702 (+5%) 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 peak in the number of admissions during the July to September quarter.

Patients admitted for acute care or maternity and birth comprised 96% of all admitted episodes. Most of these patients (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 1,409,531 bed days during the quarter and, on average, these patients stayed 3.4 days in hospital. There were 17,795 babies born, down 1% 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](http://www.bhi.nsw.gov.au)

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From July to September 2011 ...	Same period last year...	The difference...
There were <b>426,086</b> admitted patient episodes	<b>415,901</b> episodes	<b>10,185 (+2%)</b>
42% of all episodes were planned admissions	42%	unchanged
17,795 babies were born	18,043 babies	-248 (-1%)
Acute episodes comprised <b>96%</b> of all admitted patient episodes	<b>96%</b> episodes	unchanged
56% of all acute episodes were overnight admissions	56%	unchanged
Acute patients stayed a total of <b>1,409,531</b> bed days in hospital	<b>1,400,733</b> bed days	<b>8,798</b> bed days (+1%)
Acute admitted patients stayed an average length of <b>3.4</b> days	<b>3.5</b> days	<b>-0.1</b> days (-3%)

## Number of admitted patient episodes

In the July to September 2011 quarter, there were 426,086 admitted patient episodes of care in NSW public hospitals, up from 413,913 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](#).

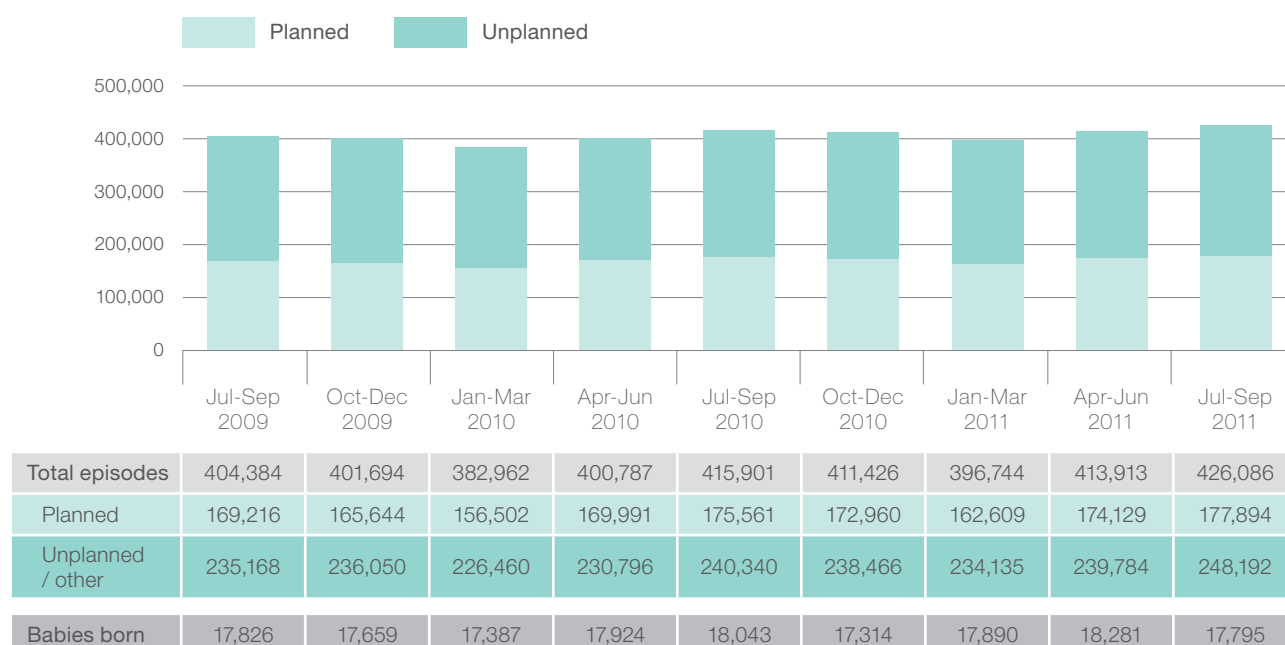
The number of admitted patient episodes in NSW public hospitals has increased over time, up from 415,901 episodes in the same quarter one year ago (2%) and from 404,384 episodes two years ago (5%).

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 July to September 2011, there were 177,894 planned admitted patient episodes and 248,192 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 14 unplanned episodes was for childbirth. During the quarter, there were 17,795 babies born in NSW public hospitals, down from 18,043 the same time one year ago.

**Figure 1: Planned and unplanned admitted patient episodes in NSW public hospitals, July 2009 to September 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 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 26 October 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](#).

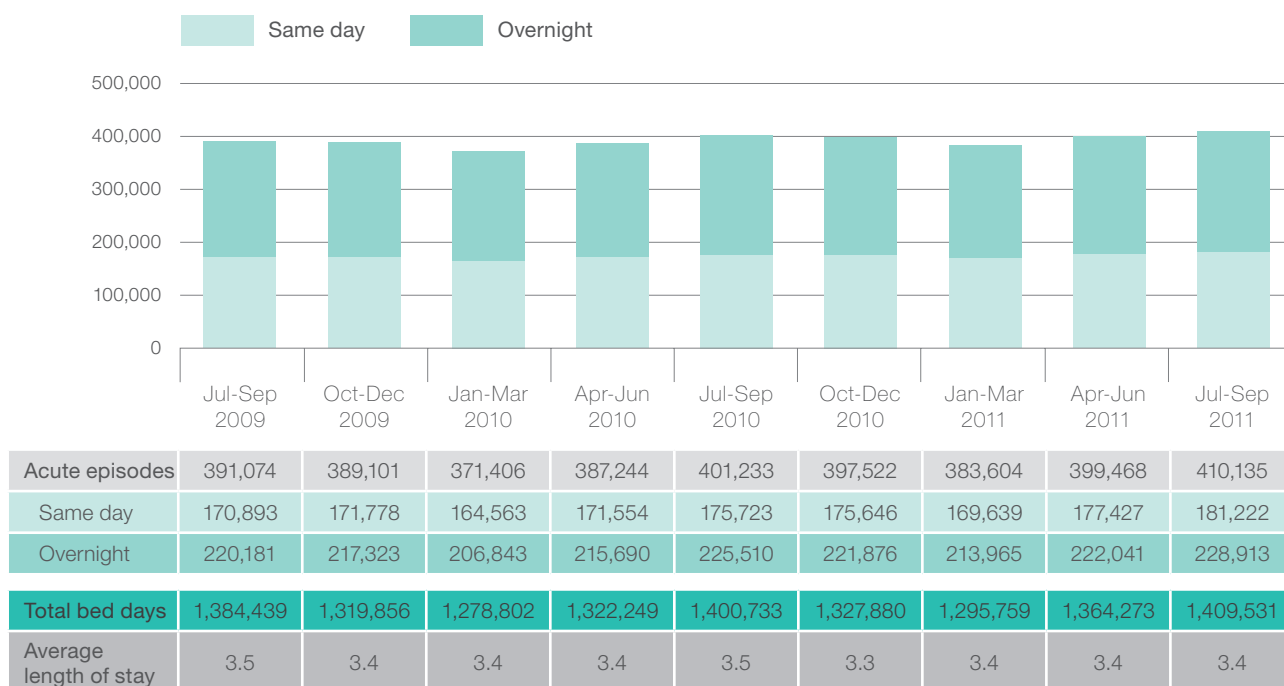
In the July to September 2011 quarter, there were 410,135 acute admitted patient episodes, up from 399,468 last quarter. The number of

acute episodes in NSW public hospitals has been increasing, up from 401,233 episodes in the same quarter one year ago (2%) and from 391,074 episodes two years ago (5%).

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 July to September, there were 181,222 same day episodes (44% of acute admitted episodes) and 228,913 overnight episodes (representing 56%) as shown in [Figure 2](#).

**Figure 2: Same day and overnight acute admitted patient episodes in NSW public hospitals, July 2009 to September 2011**



**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 26 October 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 1,409,531 days in hospital beds during this quarter, up from 1,364,273 in the previous quarter.

The number of occupied bed days in NSW public hospitals has been increasing, up from a total of 1,400,733 bed days in the same quarter one year ago (1%) and from 1,384,439 bed days two years ago (2%).

The average length of stay in hospital among acute patients (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 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, July to September 2011

	All episodes			Acute episodes			
	Total episodes	Planned	Unplanned / other	Same day	Overnight	Total acute bed days	Average length of stay (days)
<b>New South Wales</b>							
Total New South Wales	426,086	177,894	248,192	181,222	228,913	1,409,531	3.4
<b>Central Coast Local Health District (CCLHD)</b>							
Gosford Hospital	12,613	5,428	7,185	5,128	7,267	44,188	3.6
Wyong Hospital	6,955	3,059	3,896	3,335	3,364	24,230	3.6
Other CCLHD*	266	*	*	*	*	308	11.4
Total CCLHD	19,834	8,495	11,339	8,466	10,655	68,726	3.6
<b>Far West Local Health District (FWLHD)</b>							
Broken Hill Base Hospital	2,035	1,050	985	1,065	936	5,699	2.8
Other FWLHD	144	*	*	34	96	522	4.0
Total FWLHD	2,179	1,056	1,123	1,099	1,032	6,221	2.9
<b>Hunter New England Local Health District (HNELHD)</b>							
Armidale and New England Hospital	2,341	1,156	1,185	1,074	1,238	6,872	3.0
Belmont Hospital	1,870	853	1,017	483	1,381	7,491	4.0
Calvary Mater Newcastle	3,840	1,100	2,740	1,228	2,506	13,667	3.7
Cessnock District Hospital	1,072	468	604	448	602	3,329	3.2
Gunnedah District Hospital	668	263	405	242	421	1,797	2.7
Inverell District Hospital	1,100	385	715	481	580	2,320	2.2
John Hunter Hospital	19,714	9,860	9,854	9,298	10,035	66,374	3.4
Kurri Kurri District Hospital	642	468	174	407	188	1,688	2.8
Maitland Hospital	4,316	964	3,352	719	3,520	16,397	3.9

	All episodes			Acute episodes			
	Total episodes	Planned	Unplanned / other	Same day	Overnight	Total acute bed days	Average length of stay (days)
Manning Base Hospital	4,812	2,381	2,431	2,316	2,417	14,452	3.1
Moree District Hospital	973	548	425	458	511	2,303	2.4
Muswellbrook District Hospital	951	463	488	495	456	2,287	2.4
Narrabri District Hospital	596	153	443	198	384	1,374	2.4
Singleton District Hospital	1,208	668	540	655	545	2,849	2.4
Tamworth Base Hospital	5,807	2,809	2,998	2,587	3,112	17,701	3.1
Other HNELHD	3,381	791	2,590	723	2,527	30,563	9.4
<b>Total HNELHD</b>	<b>53,291</b>	<b>23,330</b>	<b>29,961</b>	<b>21,812</b>	<b>30,423</b>	<b>191,464</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District (ISLHD)</b>							
Bulli District Hospital	556	133	423	230	57	323	1.1
Milton and Ulladulla Hospital	726	53	673	231	495	2,759	3.8
Shellharbour Hospital	4,588	1,697	2,891	2,482	1,873	12,882	3.0
Shoalhaven and District Memorial Hospital	6,057	2,552	3,505	3,205	2,782	14,517	2.4
Wollongong Hospital	12,290	3,863	8,427	5,298	6,974	47,826	3.9
Other ISLHD*	577	22	555	0	10	110	11.0
<b>Total ISLHD</b>	<b>24,794</b>	<b>8,320</b>	<b>16,474</b>	<b>11,446</b>	<b>12,191</b>	<b>78,417</b>	<b>3.3</b>
<b>Justice Health (including admission data for the Forensic Mental Health Network)</b>							
<b>Total Justice Health</b>	<b>637</b>	<b>469</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>12,986</b>	<b>20.5</b>
<b>Mid North Coast Local Health District (MNCLHD)</b>							
Bellinger River District Hospital	408	74	334	139	203	1,510	4.4
Coffs Harbour Base Hospital	7,298	3,463	3,835	3,485	3,722	21,325	3.0
Kempsey Hospital	2,963	1,059	1,904	1,913	982	5,916	2.0
Macksville District Hospital	820	369	451	333	416	2,204	2.9
Port Macquarie Base Hospital	5,284	2,032	3,252	1,917	3,262	16,615	3.2
Other MNCLHD	782	481	301	563	167	2,069	2.8
<b>Total MNCLHD</b>	<b>17,555</b>	<b>7,478</b>	<b>10,077</b>	<b>8,350</b>	<b>8,752</b>	<b>49,639</b>	<b>2.9</b>
<b>Murrumbidgee Local Health District (MLHD)</b>							
Deniliquin Health Service	688	199	489	288	343	1,696	2.7
Griffith Base Hospital	2,522	1,085	1,437	1,267	1,186	5,290	2.2
Tumut Health Service	587	65	522	211	366	1,383	2.4
Wagga Wagga Base Hospital	6,895	2,926	3,969	3,258	3,526	19,147	2.8
Young Health Service	797	233	564	423	372	1,627	2.0
Other MLHD	4,336	649	3,687	1,355	2,417	11,675	3.1
<b>Total MLHD</b>	<b>15,825</b>	<b>5,157</b>	<b>10,668</b>	<b>6,802</b>	<b>8,210</b>	<b>40,818</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>Nepean Blue Mountains Local Health District (NBMLHD)</b>							
Blue Mountains District Anzac Memorial Hospital	1,032	242	790	163	746	4,710	5.2
Lithgow Health Service	1,103	318	785	570	512	2,541	2.3
Nepean Hospital	14,034	4,438	9,596	5,291	8,435	44,748	3.3
Other NBMLHD	1,018	*	*	260	644	3,165	3.5
<b>Total NBMLHD</b>	<b>17,187</b>	<b>6,011</b>	<b>11,176</b>	<b>6,284</b>	<b>10,337</b>	<b>55,164</b>	<b>3.3</b>

## All episodes

## Acute episodes

	Total episodes	Planned	Unplanned / other	Same day	Overnight	Total acute bed days	Average length of stay (days)
<b>Northern NSW Local Health District (NNSWLHD)</b>							
Ballina District Hospital	2,181	1,334	847	1,631	451	4,223	2.0
Casino and District Memorial Hospital	838	387	451	397	415	2,587	3.2
Grafton Base Hospital	3,757	2,268	1,489	2,265	1,391	7,038	1.9
Lismore Base Hospital	6,730	3,136	3,594	2,756	3,905	23,250	3.5
Maclean District Hospital	853	150	703	306	499	2,939	3.7
Murwillumbah District Hospital	1,525	709	816	623	801	3,661	2.6
The Tweed Hospital	8,088	3,365	4,723	3,697	4,332	21,158	2.6
Other NNSWLHD	1,273	509	764	259	827	4,243	3.9
<b>Total NNSWLHD</b>	<b>25,245</b>	<b>11,858</b>	<b>13,387</b>	<b>11,934</b>	<b>12,621</b>	<b>69,099</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Northern Sydney Local Health District (NSLHD)</b>							
Hornsby and Ku-Ring-Gai Hospital	4,451	1,331	3,120	1,127	3,182	17,768	4.1
Manly District Hospital	3,296	567	2,729	876	2,378	14,549	4.5
Mona Vale and District Hospital	4,110	1,774	2,336	1,948	1,947	10,445	2.7
Royal North Shore Hospital	13,570	5,352	8,218	4,879	8,281	53,455	4.1
Ryde Hospital	2,721	724	1,997	998	1,624	10,877	4.1
Other NSLHD	2,844	1,303	1,541	483	1,494	18,515	9.4
<b>Total NSLHD</b>	<b>30,992</b>	<b>11,051</b>	<b>19,941</b>	<b>10,311</b>	<b>18,906</b>	<b>125,609</b>	<b>4.3</b>
<b>South Eastern Sydney Local Health District (SESLHD)</b>							
Prince of Wales Hospital	11,022	6,050	4,972	5,207	5,643	44,394	4.1
Royal Hospital for Women	3,759	619	3,140	1,126	2,633	12,920	3.4
St George Hospital	13,951	5,776	8,175	5,368	8,000	50,032	3.7
Sutherland Hospital	6,503	2,208	4,295	1,987	3,946	21,430	3.6
Sydney Hospital / Sydney Eye Hospital	2,680	1,342	1,338	1,392	1,288	6,822	2.5
Other SESLHD <sup>†</sup>	2,147	1,487	660	*	*	22	1.8
<b>Total SESLHD</b>	<b>40,062</b>	<b>17,482</b>	<b>22,580</b>	<b>15,088</b>	<b>21,514</b>	<b>135,620</b>	<b>3.7</b>
<b>South Western Sydney Local Health District (SWSLHD)</b>							
Bankstown / Lidcombe Hospital	10,764	2,825	7,939	4,893	5,536	33,180	3.2
Bowral and District Hospital	2,278	690	1,588	1,009	1,256	6,055	2.7
Camden Hospital	566	219	347	245	96	836	2.5
Campbelltown Hospital	8,326	2,487	5,839	2,420	5,875	31,770	3.8
Fairfield Hospital	5,288	1,767	3,521	1,592	3,559	15,927	3.1
Liverpool Hospital	19,903	9,368	10,535	10,335	9,318	68,809	3.5
Other SWSLHD <sup>†</sup>	1,100	542	558	10	427	1,446	3.3
<b>Total SWSLHD</b>	<b>48,225</b>	<b>17,898</b>	<b>30,327</b>	<b>20,504</b>	<b>26,067</b>	<b>158,023</b>	<b>3.4</b>
<b>Southern NSW Local Health District (SNSWLHD)</b>							
Bateman's Bay District Hospital	1,391	525	866	745	539	2,497	1.9
Bega District Hospital	2,113	928	1,185	1,056	979	5,337	2.6
Cooma Health Service	906	229	677	335	559	2,535	2.8
Goulburn Base Hospital	2,645	1,298	1,347	1,224	1,377	8,760	3.4
Moruya District Hospital	1,730	838	892	873	811	3,990	2.4



	All episodes			Acute episodes			
	Total episodes	Planned	Unplanned / other	Same day	Overnight	Total acute bed days	Average length of stay (days)
Queanbeyan Health Service	1,244	366	878	613	613	3,079	2.5
Other SNSWLHD	1,320	131	1,189	375	637	3,207	3.2
<b>Total SNSWLHD</b>	<b>11,349</b>	<b>4,315</b>	<b>7,034</b>	<b>5,221</b>	<b>5,515</b>	<b>29,405</b>	<b>2.7</b>
<b>St Vincent's Health Network (SVHN)</b>							
St Vincent's Hospital, Darlinghurst	9,971	5,367	4,604	5,472	4,496	34,448	3.5
Other SVHN*	539	241	298	0	11	284	25.8
<b>Total SVHN</b>	<b>10,510</b>	<b>5,608</b>	<b>4,902</b>	<b>5,472</b>	<b>4,507</b>	<b>34,732</b>	<b>3.5</b>
<b>Sydney Children's Hospitals Network (SCHN)</b>							
Sydney Children's Hospital	4,907	2,627	2,280	2,671	2,235	12,646	2.6
The Children's Hospital at Westmead	7,674	4,155	3,519	3,374	4,300	25,435	3.3
<b>Total SCHN</b>	<b>12,581</b>	<b>6,782</b>	<b>5,799</b>	<b>6,045</b>	<b>6,535</b>	<b>38,081</b>	<b>3.0</b>
<b>Sydney Local Health District (SYDLHD)</b>							
Canterbury Hospital	3,969	1,173	2,796	933	2,878	13,297	3.5
Concord Hospital	12,640	8,236	4,404	7,326	4,972	50,281	4.1
RPAH Institute of Rheumatology and Orthopaedics	444	*	*	91	353	1,438	3.2
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital	16,272	7,369	8,903	6,964	9,255	62,557	3.9
Other SYDLHD	1,322	0	1,322	44	979	5,215	5.1
<b>Total SYDLHD</b>	<b>34,647</b>	<b>17,214</b>	<b>17,433</b>	<b>15,358</b>	<b>18,437</b>	<b>132,788</b>	<b>3.9</b>
<b>Western NSW Local Health District (WNSWLHD)</b>							
Bathurst Base Hospital	2,948	1,428	1,520	1,307	1,558	8,230	2.9
Cowra District Hospital	829	278	551	348	457	1,968	2.4
Dubbo Base Hospital	5,140	2,349	2,791	2,212	2,912	13,711	2.7
Forbes District Hospital	1,171	642	529	704	438	2,159	1.9
Mudgee District Hospital	894	324	570	397	487	2,282	2.6
Orange Base Hospital	5,599	2,460	3,139	2,488	2,956	16,073	3.0
Parkes District Hospital	696	150	546	234	434	1,937	2.9
Other WNSWLHD	3,986	949	3,037	1,461	2,334	12,115	3.2
<b>Total WNSWLHD</b>	<b>21,263</b>	<b>8,580</b>	<b>12,683</b>	<b>9,151</b>	<b>11,576</b>	<b>58,475</b>	<b>2.8</b>
<b>Western Sydney Local Health District (WSLHD)</b>							
Auburn Hospital	4,992	1,293	3,699	2,279	2,621	10,037	2.0
Blacktown Hospital	7,037	1,708	5,329	1,604	5,374	31,416	4.5
Mount Druitt Hospital	3,279	1,233	2,046	1,208	1,832	5,364	1.8
Westmead Hospital (all units)	24,144	12,543	11,601	12,686	10,842	68,888	2.9
Other WSLHD	458	13	445	32	401	8,559	19.8
<b>Total WSLHD</b>	<b>39,910</b>	<b>16,790</b>	<b>23,120</b>	<b>17,809</b>	<b>21,070</b>	<b>124,264</b>	<b>3.2</b>

(\*) 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 26 October 2011.

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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](http://www.bhi.nsw.gov.au) for any amendments.