



Admission and discharge position statement

1. Purpose

This position statement sets out what the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation (ANMF) considers to be the minimum requirements for safe admission and discharge.

2. Definitions

Admission is the formal acceptance of a person into a health service. In so doing, the health service accepts responsibility for the person's care and treatment based on a clinical decision that the person requires healthcare in that service.

Discharge is the formal release of that person at the conclusion of their stay either by death, return home, or transfer to another service.

3. Context

Admission and discharge are key components of nursing care. With demand for healthcare increasing across the health system, admission and discharge policies, procedures and protocols are fundamental to ensuring:

- safe, adequate and continuing care across all health delivery contexts
- the effective use of resources.

4. Position

It is the position of the ANMF that:

1. Admission and discharge planning and decision making should be done by an interdisciplinary team that includes the person receiving care, their carers, and all relevant health professionals.
2. All health services must have admission and discharge policies, procedures and protocols that:
 - prioritise and provide for safe care and quality health outcomes
 - are not based on financial incentives.
 - ensure all relevant health professionals partner with the person or their substitute decision-maker to plan, communicate, set goals, and make decisions about their current and future care.

Admissions

It is the position of the ANMF that:

3. Nurse and midwife health service managers must have discretionary power to manage admissions according to the resources they have available. This includes having:
 - safe staffing levels
 - the capacity to meet all legislative requirements for nursing and midwifery practice
 - the skills mix to provide safe care.
4. Nurse and midwife health service managers should only permit admissions when these resources are in place.



5. When an admission is refused, health service managers must have mechanisms in place to provide the person with appropriate alternative care.

Discharge

It is the position of the ANMF that:

6. Discharge from a health service should only occur if sufficient and accessible care, services and supports are in place to meet the person's continued healthcare requirements.
7. The level of care required post discharge should be documented in the discharge summary.
8. The health service should follow-up the person after discharge to ensure they are receiving such care.

5. Position statement management

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