



# Definitions of a private hospital bed and maximum numbers of patients

---

## 1. Purpose

To provide definitions of beds and the maximum numbers of patients that can be admitted for treatment or care at any one time at a private hospital. For the purposes of this policy “private hospital” includes:

- private hospitals
- private day hospitals
  - Class A
  - Class B
  - Class C
  - Class D
- private nursing posts
- private nursing homes; and
- private psychiatric hostels.

## 2. Policy Position

This policy is in accordance with

- Section 26D [3(a)] of the *Private Hospital and Health Services Act 1927* (the Act).
- Section 26D [3(a)] of the Act allows conditions to be imposed that may specify the “maximum number of patients that may be treated at any one time at the private hospital...”

The identification of the maximum number of patients to be treated at any one time assists the process of reviewing both the suitability of the premises and the arrangements for the management, staffing and equipment of private hospitals to ensure they meet their licensing requirements and provide a safe environment of care.

## 3. Definitions of licensed hospitals

**Private Hospital:** means a hospital that is not a public hospital and as defined in s8 of the *Health Service Act 2016 Section 8 (4)* is

a) premises where –

- (i) medical, surgical or dental treatment, or nursing care, is provided for ill or injured persons and at which overnight accommodation may be provided; or
- (ii) medical, surgical or dental treatment, or nursing care, will be provided for ill or injured persons and at which overnight accommodation will be provided.

b) a day hospital facility; and

c) a nursing post

**Day Hospital:** means premises that are not attached to or are set apart from premises at which (a) persons are provided with a health service determined by the Minister and (b) overnight accommodation is not provided. Please refer to [the Health Services \(Day Hospital Facility\) Determination 2016](#). Day Hospitals are categorised as Class A, B, C or D as follows:

**Class A:** a day hospital facility where the following professional medical services are provided for admitted patients:

- Procedures that involve the administration of a general, spinal or epidural anaesthetic.
- Procedures that involve the invasion of a sterile body cavity.

Patients can be admitted for same day treatment or for treatment up to a 23 hour stay.

**Class B:** a day hospital facility where the following professional medical services are provided for admitted patients:

- Procedures performed under sedation, plexus blockade or Biers Block; and
- Procedures that involve the invasion of a sterile body cavity.

**Class C:** a day hospital facility where the following professional medical services are provided to admitted and or out-patients:

- Peritoneal dialysis and haemodialysis for the treatment of end stage renal failure; and
- Peritoneal dialysis and haemodialysis for the treatment of end stage renal failure for the purpose of educating the patient to perform their own dialysis treatment in the home; and
- Respite chairs used for respite dialysis.

**Class D:** a day hospital facility where the following professional medical services are provided for admitted patients:

- A psychiatric treatment program which is for a patient who has a mental illness
- Is provided by a multi-disciplinary team under the direction and supervision of a psychiatrist; and
- Is a half or full day program that consists of more than one type of mainstream therapeutic activity.

**Nursing Post:** a place at which a nurse is stationed and at which facilities exist for medical attention, but which is not normally used for overnight accommodation of patients.

**Nursing Home:** premises in which persons who do not require constant medical attention are received as patients and lodged for the purpose of medical supervision and nursing care but does not include any premises declared by the Minister under Section 3 not to be a nursing home for purposes of the Act.

**Private Psychiatric Hostel:** private premises in which 3 or more persons who

- a) are socially dependent because of mental illness; and
- b) are not members of the family of the proprietor of the premises reside and are treated or cared for.

#### 4. Definitions of an admitted patient bed

The definition of a bed varies in accordance with the type of hospital:

- **Nursing Home, Private Hospital and or a 23 Hour Stay Day Hospital admitted patient bed:** a unit of accommodation, with associated equipment, provided for a patient admitted under a credentialled medical practitioner for treatment and which is continuously at their disposal for the duration of their stay. **Excludes** operating tables, recovery trolleys, delivery beds, and delivery cots for normal neonates.
- **Same Day - Day Hospital** a bed, trolley or chair that is primarily used for the treatment of admitted patients. This includes day procedure recovery trolleys or chairs, renal dialysis chairs, oncology chairs and discharge chairs. **Excludes** surgical operating tables.
- **Private Psychiatric Hostel bed:** means a unit of accommodation provided for a resident which is continuously at their disposal for the duration of their stay.

#### 5. Definition of the maximum number of patients that may be treated at any one time for all hospitals.

**The maximum number of patients that may be treated “at any one time”:** means the total number of the following:

- Admitted patient beds as per the above bed definition
- Delivery suite beds
- Recovery bay trolleys/chairs
- Discharge chairs
- Day oncology chairs if applicable
- Renal dialysis chairs if applicable
- Emergency Department trolleys and or chairs if applicable; and
- In-patient day therapy chairs if applicable.

**Exclude:** Surgical operating tables, delivery cots for normal neonates

**Private Hospital Emergency Department** includes a trolley or chair that is primarily used for the assessment and/or treatment of non-admitted patients (out-patients) requiring acute or urgent care. This includes resuscitation bay trolleys, treatment bay trolleys, observation trolley, isolation room trolleys and plaster room trolleys/chairs.

#### 6. Procedure for counting beds and the maximum number of patients to be treated at any one time.

##### 6.1. Private Hospitals and 23-hour Day Hospitals

- **X = Maximum number of beds**

**Count all ‘admitted patient’ beds including:**

- Medical, surgical, obstetrics
- Paediatrics
- Level 2 (and above) Nursery Cots
- Restorative/Aged Care

- Palliative
  - Rehabilitation
  - Intensive Care
  - Coronary Care
  - High dependency
  - Mental Health (excluding Authorised); and
  - “Authorised” Mental Health (As defined by the *Mental Health Act 2014*).
- **Y = Maximum number of patients that can be treated and anyone time.**

**Count all beds/trolleys/chairs in Day Procedures Units, including:**

- Day procedure recovery bay trolleys/beds
- Day procedure recovery bay chairs if applicable
- Day procedure discharge chairs
- Day chemotherapy chairs (private hospital only)
- Day renal dialysis chairs (private hospital only)

**Count all treatment trolleys and chairs in the Emergency Department, including:**

- Resuscitation bay trolleys
- Treatment bay trolleys/chairs
- Observation bay trolleys
- Isolation room trolley
- Plaster room trolley/ chairs

**Total Bed Number (X)** = total number of beds provided for the treatment of a patient admitted under a credentialed medical practitioner and which is continuously at their disposal for the duration of their stay.

**Maximum number of patients treated at any one time = (X + Y)** and is the total numbers of beds, trolleys and chairs available for the treatment of all admitted patients and includes non-admitted patients treated in the private Emergency Department if applicable.

## 6.2. Same Day - Day Hospital

**Count all beds/trolleys/chairs**

- Day procedure holding bay trolleys /chairs
- Day procedure recovery bay trolleys/beds
- Day procedure recovery chairs if applicable
- Day procedure discharge chairs

**Total bed number (X)** = not applicable

**Maximum patients treated at any one time = (Y)** and is the total numbers of beds, trolleys and chairs available for the treatment of admitted patients at any one time.

## 6.3. Class C Renal Dialysis Units

**Count chairs as follows:**

- All chairs provided for dialysis treatment (include training chairs)
- All respite treatment chairs

**Total bed number** = not applicable

**Maximum patients treated = (Y)** and is the total numbers of treatment chairs available for patients at any one time.

#### 6.4. Class D Psychiatric Day Hospital

**Count beds/chairs as follows:**

- Total number of patient therapy / treatment chairs

**Total bed number (X)** = not applicable

**Maximum number of patients treated at any one time = (Y)** the maximum numbers of in-patients that can receive therapy/treatment at any one time.

#### 6.5. Nursing Posts

- Count all beds/trolleys/chairs available for treatment of non-admitted patients at any one time

**Total bed number (X)** = not applicable

**Maximum patients that can be treated at any one time = (Y)** the total numbers of chairs, trolleys available for the treatment of patients at any one time.

#### 6.6. Nursing Home and Private Psychiatric Hostel

- Count all beds available for the sole use of a patient/resident which is continuously at their disposal for the duration of their stay.

**Total bed number (X)** = total beds available for residents/patients.

### 7. Review

This mandatory procedure will be reviewed as required to determine effectiveness, relevance and currency. At a minimum it will be reviewed within 4 years after first issue and at least every four years thereafter.

Version	Effective from	Effective to	Amendment(s)
V3	November 2017	November 2020	
V4	October 2020	October 2024	Definition of Day Hospital facility
V5	May 2023	May 2027	Definition of a bed for all Classes of licence
V6	July 2025	July 2028	Review of definitions for private hospital beds following DoH distributed bed definition update

The review table indicates previous versions of the mandatory document and any significant changes.

### 8. Approval

Approval by	Marie Sheehan, Licensing Manager, Licensing and Accreditation Regulatory Unit.
Approval date	10 July 2025



**This document can be made available in alternative formats on request for a person with a disability.**

© Department of Health 2023

Copyright to this material is vested in the State of Western Australia unless otherwise indicated. Apart from any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism, or review, as permitted under the provisions of the *Copyright Act 1968*, no part may be reproduced or re-used for any purposes whatsoever without written permission of the State of Western Australia.