

45 ROLE DELINEATION AND LEVELS OF SERVICE

Definition

45 .1.00 Role Delineation refers to a level of service that describes the complexity of the clinical activities undertaken by that service. Each level of service has associated minimum standards, support services and staffing profiles considered appropriate.

45 .2.00 The Levels of Service referred to in Schedules of Accommodation in these Guidelines are based on the NSW Health model 'Guide to the Role Delineation of Health Services' which is widely used around Australia.

The NSW Health model 'Guide to the Role Delineation of Health Services' has not been reproduced in these Guidelines, but can be obtained separately.

45 .3.00 Levels of Service range from 0 to 6 for each major clinical activity or support service associated with health facilities with Level 0 referring to the lowest complexity service and Level 6 describing the most complex.

Not all services which are provided by health care facilities are described in the Role Delineation Guide - only the core services for hospitals and community health facilities. Those services not identified will generally follow the Role Delineation of the particular hospital or facility they are applicable to.

A hospital or health care facility is considered as a particular level when the majority of clinical and support services provided are of that particular level.

It is possible to determine the role delineation level of a particular hospital component or the entire hospital between two defined levels, eg between levels 4 & 5. This usually applies to existing facilities which may have minor deficiencies in certain areas compared with the full definition of a role delineation level.

Application

45 .4.00 The Role Delineation and Levels of Service are applicable to all hospitals and health services. They may be used in a consistent manner to describe the size, service profile and roles of the institutions in the region and to develop functional and strategic plans.

45 .5.00 Based on the Role Delineation Levels, each service identified may be planned and developed at the level necessary to meet the needs of the catchment population for that service.

As a logical consequence of the definition of the level of service, accommodation requirements of one level may vary from another level. The generic schedules of accommodation included in these Guidelines make this distinction clear.

As part of the AIP process, applicants for Private Hospitals and Day Procedure Centres will be required to declare the level of service the facility is designed for.