



Admission to and discharge from health services

It is the policy of the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Federation that:

1. All health services should have in place admission and discharge policies, procedures and protocols as these are fundamental for safe, adequate and continuing care across all health delivery contexts and to ensure the effective use of resources. Policies, procedures and protocols should provide for safe care and quality health outcomes, and not be based on financial incentives.
2. Admission and discharge planning occurs through an interdisciplinary team approach which must include the person receiving care and their carers as well as the relevant health professionals. All health services should have processes for health professionals to partner with the person and/or their substitute decision-maker to plan, communicate, set goals, and make decisions about their current and future care.
3. Admission of people to health services should only occur where staffing levels and skills mix of nursing or midwifery staff are available to provide safe care.
4. Nurse and midwife managers of the health service or unit must have discretionary power to manage admissions according to resources – human and physical, staffing levels (including legislative requirements for nursing/midwifery) and skills mix, required to provide safe care. It is the responsibility of health service managers, if admissions are refused, to have mechanisms in place to provide the person with appropriate alternate care.
5. Discharge from a health care setting should only occur if safe care and quality services and supports as required are in place for the person's continued care and follow up post discharge. This care should be documented in the discharge summary.

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