



## No. 36: Data collection for community-based allied health chronic disease management

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Effective harnessing of community-based allied health services can improve patient care and reduce avoidable hospitalisations for people living with chronic conditions. Although there is an increasing number of Chronic Disease Management Services being provided, there is little data to guide patients, providers, the health sector and government on how this healthcare may best be provided and the patient outcomes being achieved.

Additional collection of clinical data is required to inform optimal treatment approaches, innovative service delivery, appropriate workforce supply, and design of the Chronic Disease Management program. Design of data collection should include: national consistency of data elements; infrastructure to support data collection, reporting, and sharing; and incentives for collection.

### Recommendations

- Longitudinal data on outcomes that matter most to patients with chronic conditions should be collected and fed back to patients and providers in a timely manner to inform care decisions.
- A longer initial appointment Chronic Disease Management allied health item should be introduced to facilitate the collection of data on specific conditions, how they are managed and the outcomes of management.
- Data on local Chronic Disease Management service supply, demand, and variation should be collected and used to inform region specific service planning and promote context specific service delivery innovations.
- Balanced financial incentives, both positive and negative, should be implemented to improve the collection and reporting of allied health data.
- Significant investment is required to rapidly advance progress towards nationally consistent allied health terminology for coded data entry of clinical information.
- Implementation of data definitions and interoperability standards are needed to support data aggregation and analysis across community-based allied health and linkage with broader health sector data.