

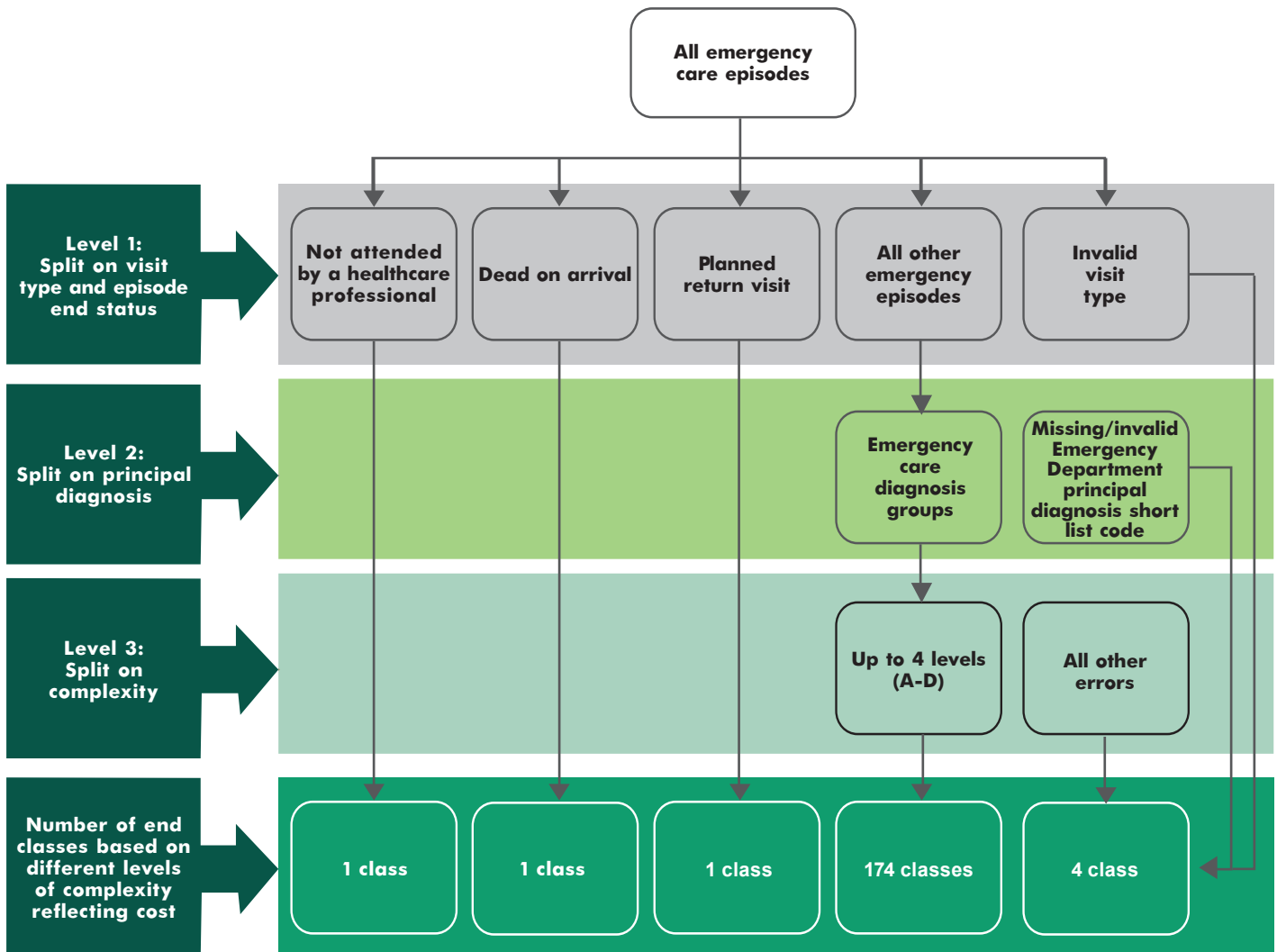
Australian Emergency Care Classification



The Australian Emergency Care Classification (AECC) Version 1.0 has been developed for use in Emergency Departments and will replace the use of the Urgency Related Group (URG) system.

The AECC has three hierarchical levels which represent how the classification sorts Emergency Department presentations into different end classes. The complexity levels are based on a score assigned to each presentation which is calculated using the patient's diagnosis, age group, visit type, episode end status, triage category and transport mode.

AECC Version 1.0 structure



Variables

The classification variables used by the AECC are currently collected in the Non Admitted Patient Emergency Department Care (NAPEDC) National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) and require no additional data items to be collected.

AECC uses additional variables compared to the URG system to enable greater understanding of patient complexity and the resources consumed.

Variable	URG v1.4	AECC v1.0
Type of visit (e.g. Emergency presentation)	✓	✓
Episode end status (e.g. Admitted to this hospital)	✓	✓
Triage Category (e.g. 1 – Resuscitation, 2 – Emergency, 3 – Urgent, 4 – Semi Urgent, 5 – Non Urgent)	✓	✓
Emergency Department principal diagnosis (e.g. J18.9 Pneumonia, unspecified)	✓	✓
Transport mode, arrival (e.g. Ambulance, Police/correctional services vehicle, other)		✓
Age		✓

Numbering convention

The AECC adopts a numbering convention that represents the Emergency Care Category (ECC), Emergency Care Diagnosis Group (ECDG) and the Complexity level.

Emergency Care Category:

Higher level grouping of ECDGs. All ECCs are prefixed with E, followed by a number, 2 characters long.

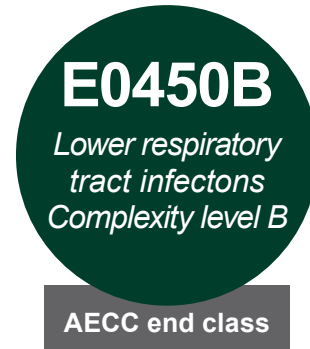
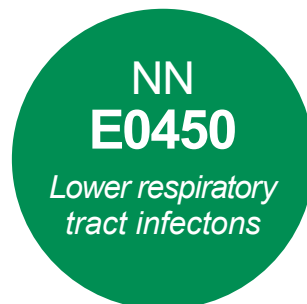
Emergency care diagnosis group:

Groupings of Emergency Department Short List* diagnoses reflecting care pathways or models of care in emergency departments.

Complexity level:

A split within an ECDG that represents different levels of patient complexity characterised by cost. Represented by the characters A, B, C, D and Z.

'A' represents the highest complexity level and each subsequent letter represents the next complexity level. 'Z' indicates that there was no complexity split.



Benefits of the AECC

- Developed in consultation with clinicians
- Utilises variables that are currently collected in national datasets
- Based on clinical characteristics and reduced reliance on triage category to describe patients
- Enables greater understanding of patient complexity and resource utilisation
- Two levels of clinical diagnosis groupings (ECC & ECDG)
- More accurate funding
- Can be used for purposes other than Activity Based Funding for example health planning, research etc
- Designed to enable incorporation of additional complexity variables for future classification refinement.

*The Emergency Department Short List is a set of codes and medical terms based on ICD-10-AM that provides a nationally consistent approach to principal diagnosis reporting for Emergency Department.