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Biography of presenting author: Lisa Fodero has worked extensively on casemix and ABF related projects across Australia and internationally. Her most recent work involved being the expert advisor to the NAWG and developing a non-admitted services classification, costing and funding in NSW which will lead to a 'shadow' ABF model in 2011/12.

Suggested session time: Thursday 6 October

Suggested paper type: Oral presentation

Title: Issues to consider in developing a national non-admitted patient services ABF model

Abstract (200 words)

The most recent National Health Reform Agreement states that a nationally consistent Activity Based Funding (ABF) system for non-admitted (outpatient) patient services will commence on 1st July 2012. This presentation describes a conceptual framework for developing a national ABF model for non-admitted patient services in Australia. The most common design for ABF models involves a mixture of a pure activity based component and a grants component. Using the conceptual model a range of issues are examined that should be addressed in developing the underlying infrastructure that is needed to support implementation of ABF for non-admitted patient services. The main issues arise in developing the pure activity based component of the ABF model, in six areas: classification system, unit of count, counting rules, costing weights, unit price, and calculation formula. Options for each of these elements are proposed. Consideration is also given to the grants components including specified grant payments and payments for exceptional cases. The paper describes the body of work that needs to be completed in the short term so that ABF for non-admitted patient services can be achieved by 1 July 2012.