

2 Role Delineation Guide

The health service requirements can be classified under broad categories such as Emergency, Inpatients, Surgery, and Intensive Care etc. Each of these may be designed for a particular level or standard of service. These are known as Role Delineation Level or RDL and numbered from 1 to 6 (including in-between numbers such as 4-5); level 1 representing uncomplicated health facilities, ascending to level 6 representing complex specialist services and hospitals.

1 Role delineation level (RDL)

To illustrate the difference in RDL, an Intensive Care Service provided by a major Metropolitan hospital which also incorporates Teaching and Research will be at RDL 6. The same service provided at a small General hospital without Teaching and Research facilities will be at RDL 4. At higher RDLs the service provision will require access to higher levels of skill and additional, complementary services. For example Surgery at RDL 5 will require Intensive Care services also at RDL 5 plus many more supporting services.

The relationships between all the services and the inter-dependence of the services at each RDL results in a large matrix with services one side and 6 RDLs on the other side.

The operators of health facilities and/or the designers need to decide what services they wish to provide as well as the RDL for those services. Only then, the facility requirements can be determined and verified. For example, the number, type and size of rooms for an ICU service at RDL 6 will be different to one at RDL 4.

International Health Facility Guidelines provide a Role Delineation Guide which sets out the most common health services under each RDL. Under each category the requirements and dependencies are stated. The Role Delineation Guide is enclosed at the end of this section.

A blank version of the Role Delineation Guide is available in electronic spreadsheet format to allow the proposed services and RDLs to be listed. This is known as the Role Delineation Matrix. This RDL Matrix can be used by the Health Facility Planning team to prepare the Facility Brief. It is also used by the Local Health Authority to assess applications for health facilities (refer to Part A of the International Health Facility Guidelines)

2 Role delineation guide

The Role Delineation Guide is described in Part B, Volume 1, Appendix A of this document.



The International Health Facility Guidelines recommends the use of HFBS “Health Facility Briefing System” to edit all room data sheet information for your project.

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