Distribution of inpatient allied health service provision in Australian and New Zealand hospitals

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Background
There is currently limited understanding of how inpatient allied health services are distributed across weekdays and weekends, between hospitals, health services, regions, and professions. This makes it difficult to assess whether current provision aligns with existing evidence and if there is any unwarranted or unnecessary variation in care.

Aim
To understand current variation in weekday and weekend inpatient allied health service provision across profession, location (metro/regional), and ward type.

Total Health Services=21

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Total Monthly Occasions of Service</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Metro</td>
<td>WD 195862 WE 15378</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional/Rural</td>
<td>WD 4554 WE 172</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Significance
Understanding our current allied health service provision across Australia and New Zealand is imperative to providing a baseline of how our service could potentially influence health outcomes across our hospital networks. These findings also shed light on the differences between geographical locations, ward type, day of the week as well as allied health discipline. Differences between allied health disciplines is particularly interesting when looking at duration of occasions and how traditionally social workers for example, spend more time with patients compared to physiotherapists and may therefore explain a lower occasions of service rate.

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