

# Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category, code N

Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build on this website's material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to [info@aihw.gov.au](mailto:info@aihw.gov.au).

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at [meteor@aihw.gov.au](mailto:meteor@aihw.gov.au).

# Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category, code N

## Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Triage category
METEOR identifier:	474185
Registration status:	<a href="#">Health</a> , Superseded 05/10/2016 <a href="#">Independent Hospital Pricing Authority</a> , Standard 31/10/2012 <a href="#">National Health Performance Authority (retired)</a> , Retired 01/07/2016
Definition:	The urgency of the patient's need for medical and nursing care as assessed at <a href="#">triage</a> , as represented by a code.
Context:	Emergency department care.
Data Element Concept:	<a href="#">Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category</a>
Value Domain:	<a href="#">Triage category code N</a>

## Value domain attributes

### Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code	
Data type:	Number	
Format:	N	
Maximum character length:	1	
	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Resuscitation: immediate (within seconds)
	2	Emergency: within 10 minutes
	3	Urgent: within 30 minutes
	4	Semi-urgent: within 60 minutes
	5	Non-urgent: within 120 minutes

## Data element attributes

### Collection and usage attributes

Collection methods:	<p>This triage classification is to be used in the emergency departments of hospitals. Patients will be triaged into one of five categories on the Australasian Triage Scale according to the triageur's response to the question: 'This patient should wait for medical care no longer than ...?'.</p> <p>The triage category is allocated by an experienced <a href="#">registered nurse</a> or medical practitioner. If the triage category changes, both triage categories can be captured, but the original category must be reported in this data element.</p> <p>A triage category should not be assigned for patients who have a Type of visit of 'Dead on arrival, emergency department clinician certified the death of the patient'.</p>
---------------------	---

### Source and reference attributes

**Origin:** Australasian Triage Scale, Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

**Reference documents:** The Australian College of Emergency Medicine (ACEM) policy on the Australian Triage Scheme is accessible at:

Australian College of Emergency Medicine 2000. Australian College of Emergency Medicine, Melbourne. Viewed 15 February 2013,

[http://www.acem.org.au/media/policies\\_and\\_guidelines/P06\\_Aust\\_Triage\\_Scale\\_-\\_Nov\\_2000.pdf](http://www.acem.org.au/media/policies_and_guidelines/P06_Aust_Triage_Scale_-_Nov_2000.pdf)

In addition, the ACEM guideline provides descriptors for the individual triage categories which can be viewed at:

Australian College of Emergency Medicine 2005. Australian College of Emergency Medicine, Melbourne. Viewed 15 February 2013,

[http://www.acem.org.au/media/policies\\_and\\_guidelines/G24\\_Implementation\\_ATS.pdf](http://www.acem.org.au/media/policies_and_guidelines/G24_Implementation_ATS.pdf)

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category, code N](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 30/01/2012

Has been superseded by [Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category, code N](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:** [Activity based funding: Emergency department care DSS 2013-2014](#)  
[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Superseded 01/03/2013

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2013  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2014  
**Conditional obligation:**

This data item is to be recorded if the patient has one of the following nonemergency department stay - type of visit to emergency department values reported:

- 1 - Emergency department presentation;
- 2 - Return visit, planned;
- 3 - Pre-arranged admission;
- 4 - Patient in transit.

[Activity based funding: Emergency service care DSS 2013-2014](#)  
[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Standard 31/10/2012

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2013  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2014  
**Conditional obligation:**

This data item is to be recorded for patients who have one of the following Type of visit values recorded:

- Emergency department presentation;
- Return visit, planned;
- Pre-arranged admission;
- Patient in transit

[Activity based funding: Emergency service care DSS 2014-15](#)  
[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Standard 14/01/2015

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2014  
**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2015  
**Conditional obligation:**

This data item is to be recorded for patients who have one of the following [Type of visit](#) values recorded:

- Code 1 - Emergency presentation;
- Code 2 - Return visit, planned;

- Code 3 - Pre-arranged admission.

[Activity based funding: Emergency service care DSS 2015-16](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 19/11/2015

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2015

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2016

**Conditional obligation:**

This data item is to be recorded for patients who have one of the following [Type of visit](#) values recorded:

- Code 1 - Emergency presentation;
- Code 2 - Return visit, planned;
- Code 3 - Pre-arranged admission.

[Activity based funding: Emergency service care NBEDS 2016-17](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 05/10/2016

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2016

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2017

**Conditional obligation:**

This data item is to be recorded for patients who have one of the following [Emergency department stay—type of visit to emergency department, code N](#) values recorded:

- Code 1 - Emergency presentation;
- Code 2 - Return visit, planned;
- Code 3 - Pre-arranged admission.

[Acute coronary syndrome \(clinical\) DSS](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 02/05/2013

**Conditional obligation:** This data element should only be collected for patients who presented to the emergency department for treatment related to acute coronary syndromes.

[Acute coronary syndrome \(clinical\) NBPDS 2013-](#)

[Health](#), Standard 02/05/2013

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2013

**Conditional obligation:**

This data element should only be collected for patients who presented to the emergency department for treatment related to acute coronary syndromes.

[Emergency department care activity based funding DSS 2012-2013](#)

[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Superseded 31/10/2012

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2012

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2013

**Conditional obligation:**

This data item is to be recorded for patients who have one of the following Type of visit values recorded:

- Emergency department presentation;
- Return visit, planned;
- Pre-arranged admission;
- Patient in transit.

[Emergency services activity based funding DSS 2012-2013](#)

[Independent Hospital Pricing Authority](#), Superseded 31/10/2012

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2012

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2013

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care DSS 2014-15](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 04/02/2015

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2014

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2015

**Conditional obligation:**

This data item is to be recorded for patients who have one of the following Type of

visit values recorded:

- Code 1 - Emergency presentation;
- Code 2 - Return visit, planned;
- Code 3 - Pre-arranged admission;
- Code 4 - Patient in transit.

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care DSS 2015-16](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 02/12/2015

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2015

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2016

**Conditional obligation:**

This data item is to be recorded for patients who have one of the following Type of visit values recorded:

- Code 1 - Emergency presentation;
- Code 2 - Return visit, planned;
- Code 3 - Pre-arranged admission;
- Code 4 - Patient in transit.

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2016-17](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 05/10/2016

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2016

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2017

**Conditional obligation:**

This data item is to be recorded for patients who have one of the following Type of visit to emergency department permissible values recorded:

- Code 1 - Emergency presentation
- Code 2 - Return visit, planned
- Code 3 - Pre-arranged admission

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2012-13](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 07/02/2013

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2012

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2013

**Conditional obligation:**

This data item is to be recorded for patients who have one of the following Type of visit values recorded:

- Emergency department presentation;
- Return visit, planned;
- Pre-arranged admission;
- Patient in transit.

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2013-14](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 11/04/2014

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2013

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2014

**Conditional obligation:**

This data item is to be recorded for patients who have one of the following Type of visit values recorded:

- Emergency department presentation;
- Return visit, planned;
- Pre-arranged admission;
- Patient in transit.

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2014-15](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 13/11/2014

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2014

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2015

**Conditional obligation:**

This data item is to be recorded for patients who have one of the following Type of visit values recorded:

- Code 1 - Emergency presentation;
- Code 2 - Return visit, planned;
- Code 3 - Pre-arranged admission;
- Code 4 - Patient in transit.

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2015-16](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 19/11/2015

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2015

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2016

**Conditional obligation:**

This data item is to be recorded for patients who have one of the following Type of visit values recorded:

- Code 1 - Emergency presentation;
- Code 2 - Return visit, planned;
- Code 3 - Pre-arranged admission;
- Code 4 - Patient in transit.

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2016-17](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 05/10/2016

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2016

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2017

**Conditional obligation:**

This data item is to be recorded for patients who have one of the following Type of visit values recorded:

- Code 1 - Emergency presentation;
- Code 2 - Return visit, planned;
- Code 3 - Pre-arranged admission;
- Code 4 - Patient in transit.

**Implementation in  
Indicators:**

[National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of patients who commenced treatment within clinically recommended time 2014](#)  
[National Health Performance Authority \(retired\)](#), Retired 01/07/2016

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 19–Selected potentially avoidable GP-type presentations to emergency departments, 2016](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 31/01/2017

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 19–Selected potentially avoidable GP-type presentations to emergency departments, 2017](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 30/01/2018

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 19–Selected potentially avoidable GP-type presentations to emergency departments, 2018](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 19/06/2019

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21a–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: Proportion seen on time, 2016](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 31/01/2017

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21a–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: Proportion seen on time, 2017](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 30/01/2018

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21a–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: Proportion seen on time, 2018](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 19/06/2019

[National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of patients who commenced treatment within clinically recommended time 2014](#)  
[National Health Performance Authority \(retired\)](#), Retired 01/07/2016

[National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Waiting times for emergency hospital care: Percentage completed within four hours, 2014](#)  
[National Health Performance Authority \(retired\)](#), Retired 01/07/2016

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 19–Selected potentially avoidable GP-type presentations to emergency departments, 2016](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 31/01/2017

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 19–Selected potentially avoidable GP-type presentations to emergency departments, 2017](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 30/01/2018

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 19–Selected potentially avoidable GP-type presentations to emergency departments, 2018](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 19/06/2019

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21a–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: Proportion seen on time, 2016](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 31/01/2017

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21a–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: Proportion seen on time, 2017](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 30/01/2018

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21a–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: Proportion seen on time, 2018](#)  
[Health](#), Superseded 19/06/2019

**Used as Denominator**

[National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of patients who commenced treatment within clinically recommended time 2014](#)  
[National Health Performance Authority \(retired\)](#), Retired 01/07/2016