Clinical urgency

Important note: This is an archived metadata standard from the AIHW Knowledgebase. For current metadata standards and related information please access METeOR, the AIHW's Metadata Online Registry at http://meteor.aihw.gov.au

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary:	NHDD		
Knowledgebase ID:	000025	Version number:	1
Metadata type:	DATA ELEMENT		
Registration Authority:	NHIMG	Admin status:	SUPERSEDED
		Effective date:	30-JUN-96

Definition: A clinical assessment of the urgency with which a patient requires elective hospital care.

Context: Elective surgery: categorisation of waiting list patients by clinical urgency assists hospital management and clinicians in the prioritisation of their workloads. It gives health consumers a reasonable estimate of the maximum time they should expect to wait for care.

Clinical urgency classification allows a meaningful measure of system performance to be calculated, namely the number or proportion of patients who wait for times in excess of the maximum desirable time limit for their urgency category (data element Long wait patient).

The establishment of a system which will identify these patients will assist Commonwealth, State and Territory governments to better focus their strategies and resources on improving patient access to elective hospital care.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype:	Numeric	
Representational form:	CODE	
Representation layout:	N	
Minimum Size:	1	
Maximum Size:	1	
Data Domain:	1	Admission desirable within 30 days
	2	Admission desirable within 31 days or over

Guide For Use: The classification employs a system of urgency categorisation based on factors such as the degree of pain, dysfunction and disability caused by the condition and its potential to deteriorate quickly into an emergency.

Related metadata: relates to the data element concept Clinical review version 1
is a qualifier of Patient listing status version 2
is a qualifier of Patient listing status version 3
has been superseded by Clinical urgency version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee

Comments: A patient's classification may change if he or she is examined by a clinician during the waiting period - undergoes clinical review. The need for clinical review varies with the patient's condition and is therefore at the discretion of the treating clinician. The waiting list information system should be able to record dates when the classification is changed (Urgency reassignment date).

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM	Assessment event

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times	From 01-Jan-95 to 30-Jun-96