
Long wait patient

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: 000085 Version number: 1
Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT
Registration Authority: NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED
Effective date: 30-JUN-96

Definition: A long wait patient is one whose wait has exceeded the time that has been determined as clinically desirable in relation to the urgency category to which they have been assigned.

Context: Elective surgery: long wait patients are those for whom the hospital system has failed to provide timely care. These are the patients whose wait may have an adverse effect on the outcome of their care. The numbers and proportions of long wait patients represent a measure of the hospital's performance in provision of elective hospital care.

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype: Numeric
Representational form: CODE
Representation layout: N
Minimum Size: 1
Maximum Size: 1
Data Domain: 1 Long wait patient
 2 Other

Guide For Use: The difference between the data elements Total ready for admitted patient care time waited and the maximum desirable time limit for the clinical urgency classification will be used in defining long wait patients. A problem may arise when a patient is clinically reviewed while on the waiting list and, as a result, assigned to a different clinical urgency classification. In this situation, a patient is a long wait patient when:
- ['Census date' minus 'Urgency reassignment date' minus not ready for care days] > maximum desirable time limit for the

urgency category assigned on the 'Urgency reassignment date' (census data); or
- ['Admission date' minus 'Urgency reassignment date' minus not ready for care days] > maximum desirable time limit for the urgency category assigned on 'Urgency reassignment date' (throughput data).

Related metadata: has been superseded by Overdue patient version 2
is derived from Category reassignment date version 2

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: Hospital Access Program Waiting Lists Working Group /
National Health Data Committee

Comments: It has been suggested that exclusion of not ready for care days in the definition of this item may not be necessary. Exclusion of these days would be expected to have little effect on calculation of this item. Nevertheless, it is conceptually correct that the period be excluded, particularly in view of the plan to make this item a key indicator of system performance. Exclusion of this period may require alterations to software. This matter requires further discussion.

Some health authorities, both internationally and in Australia, have a policy of putting a limit on the time any patient added to a waiting list should wait. If this time is exceeded, the patient's care should be expedited. This limit is independent of the maximum desirable time limits associated with urgency categories. Should the decision be made to identify these patients separately, the information can be extracted from data element Total ready for admitted patient care time waited.

This data element should be reviewed when the clinical urgency categories are revised.

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM Request for / entry into service event

Data Agreements which include this Data Element
