
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: 2
Metadata type:	DATA ELEMENT	
Registration Authority:	NHIMG	Admin status: SUPERSEDED
		Effective date: 01-MAR-05
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 Overdue patient).	

Relational and Representational Attributes

Datatype:	Numeric	
Representational form:	CODE	
Representation layout:	N	
Minimum Size:	1	
Maximum Size:	1	
Data Domain:	1	Admission within 30 days desirable for a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point that it may become an emergency
	2	Admission within 90 days desirable for a condition causing some pain, dysfunction or disability but which is not likely to deteriorate quickly or become an emergency
	3	Admission at some time in the future acceptable for

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. All patients ready for care must be assigned to one of the urgency categories, regardless of how long it is estimated they will need to wait for surgery.

Administrative Attributes

Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee

Data Element Links

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times From 01-Jul-97 to