# 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 <a href="http://meteor.aihw.gov.au">http://meteor.aihw.gov.au</a>

## Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000025 Version number: 2

Metadata type: DATA ELEMENT

Registration NHIMG Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Authority: 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 CODE

form:

Representation N

layout:

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

a condition causing minimal or no pain, dysfunction or disability, which is unlikely to deteriorate quickly and which does not have the potential to become an emergency

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.

Related metadata: relates to the data element concept Clinical review version 1

is used in conjunction with Patient listing status version 3

is used in conjunction with Category reassignment date version 2

is a qualifier of Overdue patient version 3 is a qualifier of Extended wait patient version 1 is a qualifier of Waiting time at admission version 1

is a qualifier of Waiting time at removal from elective surgery

waiting list version 2

is a qualifier of Waiting time at a census date version 2

### Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: National Health Data Committee

Comments: A patient's classification may change if he or she undergoes clinical

review during the waiting period. 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 (data

element Category 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-Jul-97 to