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# Waiting time at a census date

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**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: 000412                      Version number: 1  
Metadata type: DERIVED DATA ELEMENT  
Registration Authority: NHIMG                      Admin status: SUPERSEDED  
Effective date: 30-JUN-02

Definition: The time elapsed for a patient on the elective surgery waiting list from the date they were added to the waiting list for the procedure to a designated census date.

Context: Elective surgery: this is a critical elective surgery waiting times data element. It is used to determine whether patients are overdue, or had extended waits at a census date. It is used to assist doctors and patients in making decisions about hospital referral, to assist in the planning and management of hospitals and in health care related research.

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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype: Numeric  
Representational form: QUANTITATIVE VALUE  
Representation layout: NNNN  
Minimum Size: 1  
Maximum Size: 4  
Data Domain: NOVAL              Count in number of days

Guide For Use: The number of days is calculated by subtracting the Listing Date from the Census date, minus any days when the patient was 'not ready for care', and also minus any days the patient was waiting with a lower clinical urgency category than their clinical urgency category at the Census date.

Days when the patient was not ready for care is calculated by subtracting the date(s) the person was recorded as 'not ready for care' from the date(s) the person was subsequently recorded as again being 'ready for care'

If, at any time since being added to the waiting list for the elective surgical procedure, the patient has had a lower clinical urgency category than the category at the Census date, then the number of days waited at the lower clinical urgency category should be subtracted from the total number of days waited.

In cases where there has been only one category reassignment (ie. to the higher category attached to the patient at Census date) the number of days at the lower clinical urgency category should be calculated by subtracting the Listing date from the Category reassignment date. If the patient's clinical urgency was reclassified more than once, days spent in each period of lower clinical urgency than the one applying at the Census date should be calculated by subtracting one Category reassignment date from the subsequent Category reassignment date, and then added together.

Related metadata: is calculated using Listing date version 2  
is calculated using Census date version 2  
is calculated using Patient listing status version 3  
is qualified by Clinical urgency version 2  
is calculated using Category reassignment date version 2  
is used in the derivation of Overdue patient version 3  
is used in the derivation of Extended wait patient version 1  
has been superseded by Waiting time at a census date version 2

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### *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document:

Source Organisation: AIHW, National Health Data Committee

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Comments: Elective surgery waiting times data collections include measures of waiting times at admission and at designated census dates. This data element is used to measure waiting times at a designated census date whereas the data element Waiting time at admission measures waiting times at admission.

### *Data Element Links*

*Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

NHIM Performance indicator

*Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times From 01-Jul-99 to 30-Jun-02