Waiting time at a census date

Identifying and Definitional Attributes

Data Dictionary: NHDD

Knowledgebase ID: 000412   Version number: 2

Metadata type: DERIVED DATA ELEMENT

Registration Authority: NHIMG   Admin status: SUPERSEDED

Effective date: 01-MAR-05

Definition: The time elapsed (in days) for a patient on the elective surgery waiting list from the date they were added to the waiting list 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.

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 for care 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 less urgent 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 less urgent clinical urgency category than the category at the Census date, then the number of days waited at the less urgent clinical urgency category should be subtracted from the total number of days waited.

In cases where there has been only one category reassignment (i.e. to the more urgent category attached to the patient at Census date) the number of days at the less urgent clinical urgency category should be calculated by subtracting the Listing date for care from the Category reassignment date. If the patient's clinical urgency was reclassified more than once, days spent in each period of less urgent 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 adding the days together.

When a patient is admitted from an elective surgery waiting list but the surgery is cancelled and the patient remains on or is placed back on the waiting list within the same hospital, the time waited on the list should continue. Therefore at the Census date the patient's waiting time includes the number of days waited on an elective surgery waiting list, both before and after any cancelled surgery admission. The time waited before the cancelled surgery should be counted as part of the total time waited by the patient.

Related metadata: 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
supersedes previous derived data element Waiting time at a census date version 1
is calculated using Listing date for care version 4

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
National Health Data Committee

Comments: Elective surgery waiting times data collections include measures of

waiting times at removal 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 removal from elective surgery waiting list measures waiting times at removal. The calculation of waiting times for patients who are transferred from an elective surgery waiting list managed by one public acute hospital to another will be investigated in the future. In this case, the amount of time waited on previous lists should follow the patient to the next. Therefore at the Census date, their waiting time includes the total number of days on all lists (less days not ready for care and days in lower urgency categories).

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