

National Healthcare Agreement: P34-Waiting times for elective surgery, 2010

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National Healthcare Agreement: P34-Waiting times for elective surgery, 2010

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Indicator
Short name:	Waiting times for elective surgery, 2010
METEOR identifier:	395010
Registration status:	Health , Superseded 08/06/2011
Description:	Median and 90th percentile waiting times for elective surgery in public hospitals, including by indicator procedure
Indicator set:	National Healthcare Agreement (2010) Health , Superseded 08/06/2011
Outcome area:	Hospital and Related Care Health , Standard 07/07/2010 National Health Performance Authority (retired) , Retired 01/07/2016
Data quality statement:	National Healthcare Agreement: P34-Waiting times for elective surgery, 2010 QS Health , Superseded 08/06/2011

Collection and usage attributes

Computation description:	<p>Waiting times are calculated for patients whose reason for removal was Admitted as an elective patient.</p> <p>Includes the proportion of removals for elective admission that waited more than 365 days.</p> <p>Elective surgery as defined in the National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) for elective surgery waiting times.</p> <p>See <i>Australian Hospital Statistics</i> 2007-08 for a list of indicator procedures.</p> <p>The data presented for this indicator are sourced from linked records in the National Hospital Morbidity Database (NHMD) and National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection (NESWTDC). The linked records represent about 97% of all records in NESWTDC for 2007-08.</p> <p>Presented as number of days; median and 90th percentile waiting times.</p>
Computation:	<p>The number of days waiting time is calculated by subtracting the listing date for care from the removal 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 removal.</p> <p>Calculated overall and for each indicator procedure.</p>
Numerator:	No numerator

Numerator data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

[Elective surgery waiting list episode—reason for removal from a waiting list, code N](#)

Data Source

[National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element / Data Set

[Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time \(at removal\), total days N\[NNN\]](#)

Data Source

[National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Establishment—organisation identifier \(Australian\), NNX\[X\]NNNNN](#)

Data Source

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Establishment—organisation identifier \(Australian\), NNX\[X\]NNNNN](#)

Data Source

[National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—person identifier, XXXXXX\[X\(14\)\]](#)

Data Source

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—person identifier, XXXXXX\[X\(14\)\]](#)

Data Source

[National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Denominator:

No denominator

Disaggregation data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

Data Element

Public hospital peer group

Data Source

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Establishment—organisation identifier \(Australian\), NNX\[X\]NNNNN](#)

Data Source

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data
Used for disaggregation by state/territory

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—Indigenous status, code N](#)

Data Source

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Elective surgery waiting list episode—indicator procedure, code NN](#)

Data Source

[National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—area of usual residence, geographical location code \(ASGC 2006\) NNNNN](#)

Data Source

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data
Used for disaggregation by remoteness area and SEIFA of residence

Comments: Specified disaggregation: Nationally and by state/territory: by indicator procedure, public hospital peer group, Indigenous status, remoteness area and SEIFA of residence.

Available disaggregation: Nationally and by state/territory: by indicator procedure, public hospital peer group, Indigenous status (NSW, Vic, QLD, SA, WA and NT public hospitals only) remoteness area and SEIFA of residence.

Data for 2008-09 will be available in June 2010.

Most recent data available for 2010 CRC baseline report: 2007-08

Representational attributes

Representation class: Median

Data type: Real

Unit of measure: Time (e.g. days, hours)

Format: N[NN]

Indicator conceptual framework

Framework and dimensions: [Accessibility](#)

Data source attributes

Data sources:

Data Source

[National Hospital Morbidity Database \(NHMD\)](#)

Frequency

Annual

Data custodian

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Data Source

[National Elective Surgery Waiting Times Data Collection](#)

Frequency

Annual

Data custodian

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Accountability attributes

Reporting requirements: National Healthcare Agreement

Organisation responsible for providing data: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Further data development /
collection required:** Specification: Long-term

Revision of indicator procedure categories. A Health Policy Priorities Principal Committee (HPPPC) working group is considering this issue.

It is not currently possible to transfer a patient's waiting time from one hospital to another (in cases where patients are transferred from a waiting list managed by one hospital to a waiting list managed by another) in all states and territories.

The indicator procedure list was developed over 10 years ago and could be reviewed to ensure that it reflects current elective surgery practice and areas of policy interest.

Approximately 65% of removals do not fall into one of the defined Indicator procedures.

The HPPPC is undertaking a review of elective surgery policy, listing practices and reporting. The Committee is commissioning a consultancy to:

- review of existing models for listing and reporting booked surgery, nationally and internationally
- develop a series of options for the development of models for booked surgery
- Prepare a report outlining the findings from the review and options for models and recommendations for enhancing booked surgery policy, listing practices and reporting.

The HPPPC review may result in recommendations for incremental data development, and revisions to performance reporting on waiting times for elective surgery.

Work is also required to improve the identification of Indigenous Australians within this the NHMD data.

Other issues caveats:

Coverage of elective surgery episodes in public hospitals is not complete (91% in 2007–08) and varies by state and territory and by hospital peer group.

For two jurisdictions with the National Elective Surgery Waiting Time Data Collection, the waiting time for patients transferred between waiting lists may not be complete.

Disaggregations within individual jurisdictions are subject to data quality considerations. Some disaggregations may result in numbers too small for publication.

There is considerable debate about measures of waiting for elective surgery. See the AIHW 2008 *Elective surgery in Australia: new measures of access* report for further background.

The quality of data on Indigenous status, taken from the NHMD, is not considered to be adequate for analysis purposes for the ACT and Tasmania.

Source and reference attributes

Reference documents:

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2009. *Australian hospital statistics 2007–08*. Health services series no. 33. Cat. no. HSE 71. Canberra: AIHW.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10776>

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2008. *Elective surgery in Australia: new measures of access*. Cat. no. HSE 57. Canberra: AIHW.

<http://www.aihw.gov.au/publications/index.cfm/title/10596>

Relational attributes

**Related metadata
references:**

Has been superseded by [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 34-Waiting times for elective surgery, 2011](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 31/10/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P45-Rates of services: Overnight separations, 2010](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 08/06/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P58-Patient satisfaction/experience, 2010](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 08/06/2011