

# National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Waiting times for emergency hospital care: Percentage completed within four hours, 2014

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Indicator type:</b>	Progress measure
<b>Common name:</b>	NEAT
<b>Short name:</b>	Waiting times for emergency hospital care: Percentage completed within four hours, 2014
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	558277
<b>Registration status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">National Health Performance Authority (retired)</a>, Retired 01/07/2016</li></ul>
<b>Description:</b>	For all patients presenting to a public hospital emergency department (including publicly funded emergency departments), the percentage of presentations where the time from presentation to physical departure, i.e. the length of the emergency department stay, is within four hours.
<b>Indicator set:</b>	<a href="#">National Health Performance Authority: Hospital performance: 2011-16</a> <a href="#">National Health Performance Authority (retired)</a> , Retired 01/07/2016
<b>Outcome area:</b>	<a href="#">Hospital and Related Care</a> <a href="#">National Health Performance Authority (retired)</a> , Retired 01/07/2016 <a href="#">Health</a> , Standard 07/07/2010

## Collection and usage attributes

<b>Population group age from:</b>	All ages
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**Computation description:** Data are provided as per the Non-admitted patient emergency department care (NAPEDC) National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) 2012-13.

The scope for calculation of the National Emergency Access Target (NEAT) is all hospitals reporting to the NAPEDC NMDS (Peer Group A, B and other) as at August 2012 (when the National Health Reform Agreement - National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services was signed). For the duration of the agreement, hospitals that have not previously reported to the NAPEDC NMDS can come into scope, subject to agreement between the jurisdiction and the Commonwealth.

Calculation includes all presentations with a physical departure date/time in the reporting period, including records where the presentation date/time is prior to the reporting period. Invalid records are excluded from the numerator and denominator. Invalid records are records for which:

Length of stay is less than zero

Presentation date or time missing

Physical departure date or time missing

Calculation includes presentations with any type of visit to emergency department.

Emergency department (ED) stay length is calculated by subtracting Time patient presents and Date patient presents from Emergency department physical departure time and date respectively, as per the business rules included in the NAPEDC NMDS 2012-13:

If the patient is subsequently admitted to this hospital (either short stay unit, hospital-in-the-home or non-emergency department hospital ward), record the time the patient leaves the emergency department to go to the admitted patient facility. Patients admitted to any other ward or bed within the emergency department have not physically departed the emergency department until they leave the emergency department

If the patient is admitted and subsequently dies before leaving the emergency department, then record the time the body was removed from the emergency department.

If the service episode is completed without the patient being admitted, then the time the patient's emergency department non-admitted clinical care ended.

If the service episode is completed and the patient is referred to another hospital for admission, then record the time the patient leaves the emergency department.

If the patient did not wait, then record the time the patient leaves the emergency department or was first noticed as having left.

If the patient leaves at their own risk, then record the time the patient leaves the emergency department or was first notices as having left.

If the patient died in the emergency department, then record the time the body was removed from the emergency department.

If an emergency department physician certified the death of the patient outside the emergency department, then record the time the patient was certified dead.

If the patient was dead on arrival, then record the time the body was removed from the emergency department.

Presentation time and date are the time and date of the first recorded contact with an emergency department staff member. The first recorded contact can be the commencement of the clerical registration or triage process, whichever happens first.

**Computation:**  $100 \times (\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator})$

**Numerator:** Number of emergency department presentations where Emergency Department stay length is less than or equal to four hours..

**Numerator data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**  
[Emergency department stay—presentation date, DDMMYYYY](#)  
**Data Source**  
[National Emergency Access Target data](#)  
**Guide for use**  
Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**  
[Emergency department stay—presentation time, hhmm](#)  
**Data Source**  
[National Emergency Access Target data](#)  
**Guide for use**  
Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**  
[Emergency department stay—physical departure date, DDMMYYYY](#)  
**Data Source**  
[National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database](#)  
**Guide for use**  
Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**  
[Emergency department stay—physical departure time, hhmm](#)  
**Data Source**  
[National Emergency Access Target data](#)  
**Guide for use**  
Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Denominator:** Number of emergency department presentations.

**Denominator data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

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

**Data Source**

[National Emergency Access Target data](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

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

**Data Source**

[National Emergency Access Target data](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Disaggregation:**

**Disaggregation data elements:**

Hospital, triage categories, admitted and discharged patients, peer groups.

**Data Element / Data Set**

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

**Data Source**

[National Emergency Access Target data](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category, code N](#)

**Data Source**

[National Emergency Access Target data](#)

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Administrative health region—Medicare Local peer group, code N](#)

**Data Source**

[National Emergency Access Target data](#)

**Comments:** The scope for calculation of the National Emergency Access Target (NEAT) is all hospitals reporting to the NAPEDC NMDS (Peer Group A, B and other) as at August 2012 (when the National Health Reform Agreement - National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services was signed). For the duration of the agreement, hospitals that have not previously reported to the NAPEDC NMDS can come into scope, subject to agreement between the jurisdiction and the Commonwealth.

These results are reported across Australia using a hospital peer classification system refined by the Authority for the purposes of reporting the NEAT indicator in a comparable fashion. A revised version of AIHW Revision 1 method of peer classification was used for more information see page 6 in the, Technical Supplement: Time patients spent in emergency departments in 2011-12. [http://www.myhospitals.gov.au/Content/Reports/time-in-emergency-department/2012-12/pdf/Technical\\_Supplement-Time\\_in\\_ED-2011-12.pdf](http://www.myhospitals.gov.au/Content/Reports/time-in-emergency-department/2012-12/pdf/Technical_Supplement-Time_in_ED-2011-12.pdf)

## Representational attributes

**Representation class:** Percentage

**Data type:** Real

**Unit of measure:** Person

**Format:** N[NN]

## Indicator conceptual framework

**Framework and dimensions:** [PAF-Effectiveness of access](#)

[PAF-Equity of access](#)

## Data source attributes

**Data sources:** **Data Source**

[National Emergency Access Target data](#)

**Frequency**

Quarterly

**Data custodian**

Department of Health and Ageing; Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Data Source**

[National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database](#)

**Frequency**

Annual

**Data custodian**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Accountability attributes

**Reporting requirements:** National Health Performance Agreement - Performance and Accountability Framework

**Organisation responsible for providing data:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare; Department of Health and Ageing

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** National Health Performance Authority

**Reference documents:** Technical Supplement: Time patients spent in emergency departments in 2011-12.

[http://www.myhospitals.gov.au/Content/Reports/time-in-emergency-department/2012-12/pdf/Technical\\_Supplement-Time\\_in\\_ED-2011-12.pdf](http://www.myhospitals.gov.au/Content/Reports/time-in-emergency-department/2012-12/pdf/Technical_Supplement-Time_in_ED-2011-12.pdf)