

# Radiotherapy waiting times NMDS 2018-

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Data Set Specification

**METEOR identifier:** 686202

**Registration status:**

- [Health](#), Standard 25/01/2018

**DSS type:** National Minimum Data Set (NMDS)

**Scope:** The main purpose of the Radiotherapy waiting times national minimum data set (RWT NMDS) is to describe the information that must be collected to calculate the waiting times for the following time period in the treatment pathway for radiotherapy services in Australia:

The time between the patient's ready-for-care date and the date of the first megavoltage external beam radiotherapy treatment.

Establishments in-scope are only those health-care establishments that provide megavoltage external beam radiotherapy treatment (in-scope radiotherapy treatment). Both public and private establishments are in-scope. While it is mandatory for public establishments to report data to the national minimum data set (NMDS), private providers are also encouraged to participate.

The scope is not limited by diagnosis: it includes people with cancer (notifiable and non-notifiable) and people who do not have cancer.

People in-scope are those who started a course of radiotherapy treatment within the reference period.

For public establishments, all in-scope activity should be reported, including services provided by specialists operating under right of private practice arrangements.

## Collection and usage attributes

**Statistical unit:** [Courses of radiotherapy treatment](#) started.

**Guide for use:**

The table below defines some key concepts used in the RWT NMDS. It is assumed that data submitted to the RWT NMDS adhere to these definitions. These definitions do not necessarily apply to other data sets.

Key concept	Definition
<a href="#">Course of radiotherapy treatment</a>	<p>A course of radiotherapy treatment is a series of one or more radiotherapy treatments prescribed by a radiation oncologist.</p> <p>A course of radiotherapy treatment should have an associated ready-for-care date and, when treatment starts, a radiotherapy start date.</p> <p>A patient can receive more than one course of radiotherapy treatment at the same time (i.e. courses which are simultaneous or which overlap). These courses may have the same or different ready-for-care dates and the same or different radiotherapy start dates.</p> <p>Only a radiation oncologist can prescribe a course of radiotherapy treatment. A prescription is not equal to a course of radiotherapy treatment. A prescription may be for one or more courses of radiotherapy treatment. A prescription outlines the anatomical region/sites to be treated and is for a prescribed dose at a defined volume (fractionation) over a defined period of time.</p> <p>One course of radiotherapy treatment may cover multiple phases and multiple treatment plans.</p> <p>The completion of a course of radiotherapy treatment is not relevant to the definition of a course of radiotherapy treatment.</p>
<b>Diagnosis</b>	<p>Diagnosis is described either by the <a href="#">principal diagnosis</a> (where radiotherapy is intended as treatment for cancer), or by the <a href="#">principal diagnosis</a> of the disease being treated (where radiotherapy is intended as treatment for a disease other than cancer).</p>
<b>Treatment start</b>	<p>Treatment starts with the first fraction delivered and does not include the planning or simulation stages of radiotherapy.</p>

The statistical unit will be calculated by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for the time period (see Scope above) using the following data elements:

The time in days between [Patient—ready-for-care date, DDMMYYYY](#) and [Patient—radiotherapy start date, DDMMYYYY](#).

**Comments:** *Glossary items*

Glossary terms that are relevant to this NMDS include:

[Course of radiotherapy treatment](#)

[Radiotherapy](#)

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:**

See also [National Radiotherapy Waiting Times Database, 2015–16; Quality Statement](#)

- [AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Superseded 16/07/2018

See also [National Radiotherapy Waiting Times Database, 2016–17; Quality Statement](#)

- [AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Superseded 06/08/2019

See also [National Radiotherapy Waiting Times Database, 2017–18; Quality Statement](#)

- [AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Superseded 06/10/2020
- [Health](#), Incomplete 01/07/2017

See also [National Radiotherapy Waiting Times Database, 2018–19; Quality Statement](#)

- [AIHW Data Quality Statements](#), Standard 06/10/2020

See also [Person with cancer—clinical emergency indicator, code A](#)

- [WA Health](#), Standard 19/03/2015

See also [Person with cancer—intention of treatment, code AAA](#)

- [WA Health](#), Standard 19/03/2015

Supersedes [Radiotherapy waiting times NMDS 2015-2018](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 25/01/2018

See also [Statistical Area Level 1 of usual residence NBEDS 2018-19](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 17/10/2018

See also [Statistical Area Level 1 of usual residence NBEDS 2019-20](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 18/12/2019

See also [Statistical Area Level 1 of usual residence NBEDS 2020–21](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 09/02/2021

See also [Statistical Area Level 1 of usual residence NBEDS 2021–22](#)

- [Health](#), Superseded 20/10/2021

See also [Statistical Area Level 1 of usual residence NBEDS 2022–23](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 20/10/2021

## Metadata items in this Data Set Specification [Show more detail](#)

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	<a href="#">Address—statistical area, level 2 (SA2) code (ASGS 2016) N(9)</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Establishment—organisation identifier (Australian), NNX[X]NNNNN</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Patient—clinical emergency indicator, yes/no code N</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Patient—intention of treatment, code N</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Patient—principal diagnosis, (ICD-10-AM 10th edn) ANN{.N[N]}</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Patient—radiotherapy start date, DDMMYYYY</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Patient—ready-for-care date, DDMMYYYY</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Person—area of usual residence, statistical area level 2 (SA2) code (ASGS 2016) N(9)</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Person—date of birth, DDMMYYYY</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Person—Indigenous status, code N</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Person—person identifier, XXXXXX[X(14)]</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Person—sex, code X</a>	Mandatory	1