

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

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list
METEOR identifier:	689791
Registration status:	Health , Superseded 18/12/2019
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 for the procedure to the date they were removed from the waiting list.
Context:	Elective surgery
Data Element Concept:	Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time at removal
Value Domain:	Total days N[NNN]

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Total
Data type:	Number
Format:	N[NNN]
Maximum character length:	4
Unit of measure:	Day

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

The number of days is calculated by subtracting the [Elective care waiting list episode—listing date for care, DDMMYYYY](#) from the [Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting list removal date, DDMMYYYY](#), minus any days when the patient was 'not ready for surgery', and also minus any days the patient was waiting with a less urgent clinical urgency category than their clinical urgency category at removal.

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

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 removal, then the number of days waited at the less urgent [Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N](#) 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 removal) the number of days at the less urgent clinical urgency category should be calculated by subtracting the [Elective care waiting list episode—listing date for care, DDMMYYYY](#) from the [Elective care waiting list episode—category reassignment date, DDMMYYYY](#). 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 removal 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 removal 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.

Comments:

Elective surgery waiting times data collections include measures of waiting times at removal and at designated census dates. This metadata item is used to measure waiting times at removal whereas the metadata item [Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time at a census date, total days N\[NNN\]](#) measures waiting times at a designated census date.

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 would follow the patient to the next. Therefore when the patient is removed from the waiting list (for admission or other reason), their waiting time would include the total number of days on all lists (less days 'not ready for surgery' and days in lower urgency categories).

This is a critical elective surgery waiting times metadata item. It is used to determine whether patients were overdue. 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.

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: National Health Information Standards and Statistics Committee

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

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

[Health](#), Superseded 12/12/2018

[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 16/06/2020

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

[Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2021

[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 28/03/2023

Is formed using [Elective care waiting list episode—listing date for care, DDDMMYYYY](#)

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

[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 16/06/2020

Is formed using [Elective surgery waiting list episode—patient listing status, readiness for surgery code N](#)

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

Is formed using [Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting list removal date, DDDMMYYYY](#)

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

[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 16/06/2020

See also [Elective care waiting list episode—category reassignment date, DDDMMYYYY](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2021

[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 28/03/2023

See also [Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N](#)

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

[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 16/06/2020

See also [Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N](#)

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

See also [Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N](#)

[Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2021

[Tasmanian Health](#), Superseded 28/03/2023

See also [Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time at a census date, total days N\[NNN\]](#)

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

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

[Elective surgery waiting times cluster](#)

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

[Elective surgery waiting times NMDS 2019–20](#)

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

Implementation start date: 01/07/2019

Implementation end date: 30/06/2020

Conditional obligation:

Only for patients removed from an elective surgery waiting list.

**Implementation in
Indicators:**

Used as Numerator

[Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.3–Waiting times for elective surgery: proportion admitted within clinically recommended time, 2020](#)

[Health](#), Standard 13/10/2021

[Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.4–Waiting times for elective surgery: percentage waited more than 365 days, 2020](#)

[Health](#), Standard 13/10/2021

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 20a–Waiting times for elective surgery: waiting times in days, 2021](#)

[Health](#), Standard 16/09/2020

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 20a–Waiting times for elective surgery: waiting times in days, 2022](#)

[Health](#), Standard 24/09/2021

[National Healthcare Agreement: PI 20b–Waiting times for elective surgery: proportion seen on time, 2021](#)

[Health](#), Standard 16/09/2020