

# Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time at a census date, total days N[NNN]

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Data Element
<b>Short name:</b>	Waiting time at a census date
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	716100
<b>Registration status:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <a href="#">Health</a>, Superseded 05/02/2021</li><li>• <a href="#">Tasmanian Health</a>, Standard 16/06/2020</li></ul>
<b>Definition:</b>	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.
<b>Context:</b>	<a href="#">Elective surgery</a>
<b>Data Element Concept:</b>	<a href="#">Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time at a census date</a>

## Value domain attributes

## Representational attributes

<b>Representation class:</b>	Total
<b>Data type:</b>	Number
<b>Format:</b>	N[NNN]
<b>Maximum character length:</b>	4
<b>Unit of measure:</b>	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 [Hospital census \(of elective surgery waitlist patients\)—census 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 the census date.

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 the census date, 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 census date) 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 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.

**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 a designated census date whereas the metadata item [Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time at removal, total days N\[NNN\]](#) 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 surgery' and days in lower urgency categories).

This is a critical elective surgery waiting times metadata item. It is used to determine whether patients are 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:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:**

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

- [ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate 08/08/2018
- [Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2021
- [Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 02/12/2016

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

- [ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate 20/07/2018
- [Health](#), Standard 25/01/2018
- [Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 16/06/2020

See also [Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N](#)

- [Health](#), Standard 05/02/2021

See also [Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N](#)

- [ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate 03/08/2018
- [Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2021

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

- [Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2021
- [Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 16/06/2020

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

- [Health](#), Standard 05/02/2021

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

- [ACT Health \(retired\)](#), Candidate 09/08/2018
- [Health](#), Superseded 18/12/2019

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

- [Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2021
- [Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 16/06/2020

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:**

[Elective surgery waiting times NMDS 2020–21Health](#), Superseded 05/02/2021

*Implementation start date:* 01/07/2020

*Implementation end date:* 30/06/2021

*Conditional obligation:*

Only for patients on an elective surgery waiting list at time of census.