

# **National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21b—Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion of patients whose length of emergency department stay is less than or equal to four hours, 2021**

**Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)**

© Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2024

This product, excluding the AIHW logo, Commonwealth Coat of Arms and any material owned by a third party or protected by a trademark, has been released under a Creative Commons BY 4.0 (CC BY 4.0) licence. Excluded material owned by third parties may include, for example, design and layout, images obtained under licence from third parties and signatures. We have made all reasonable efforts to identify and label material owned by third parties.

You may distribute, remix and build on this website's material but must attribute the AIHW as the copyright holder, in line with our attribution policy. The full terms and conditions of this licence are available at <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>.

Enquiries relating to copyright should be addressed to [info@aihw.gov.au](mailto:info@aihw.gov.au).

Enquiries or comments on the METEOR metadata or download should be directed to the METEOR team at [meteor@aihw.gov.au](mailto:meteor@aihw.gov.au).

# National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21b–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion of patients whose length of emergency department stay is less than or equal to four hours, 2021

## Identifying and definitional attributes

<b>Metadata item type:</b>	Indicator
<b>Indicator type:</b>	Progress measure
<b>Short name:</b>	PI 21b–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion of patients whose length of emergency department stay is less than or equal to four hours, 2021
<b>METEOR identifier:</b>	725783
<b>Registration status:</b>	<a href="#">Health</a> , Standard 16/09/2020
<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 <a href="#">Emergency department stay</a> , is within four hours.
<b>Indicator set:</b>	<a href="#">National Healthcare Agreement (2021)</a> <a href="#">Health</a> , Standard 19/11/2020
<b>Outcome area:</b>	<a href="#">Hospital and Related Care</a> <a href="#">Health</a> , Standard 07/07/2010 <a href="#">National Health Performance Authority (retired)</a> , Retired 01/07/2016

## Collection and usage attributes

**Computation description:** The scope for calculation of this indicator is all hospitals reporting to the [Non-admitted patient emergency department care \(NAPEDC\) National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\) 2019–20](#) or [NAPEDC National Best Endeavours Data Set \(NBEDS\) 2019–20](#).

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 < 0
- Presentation date or time is missing
- Physical departure date or time is missing.

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

### Recording departure time

Emergency department (ED) stay length is the amount of time, measured in minutes, between when a patient presents at an emergency department, and when the patient physically departs the emergency department. It is calculated as per the guidelines included in the NAPEDC NMDS 2019–20 or NAPEDC NBEDS 2019–20:

- If the patient is subsequently admitted to this hospital (either short stay unit, hospital-in-the-home or non-emergency department hospital ward), then the time the patient leaves the emergency department to go to the admitted patient facility is recorded.
  - – 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 the time the body was removed from the emergency department is recorded.
- If the service episode is completed without the patient being admitted, then the time the patient's emergency department non-admitted clinical care ended is recorded.
- If the service episode is completed and the patient is referred to another hospital for admission, then the time the patient leaves the emergency department is recorded.
- If the patient did not wait, then the time the patient leaves the emergency department or was first noticed as having left is recorded.
- If the patient leaves at their own risk, then the time the patient leaves the emergency department or was first noticed as having left is recorded.
- If the patient died in the emergency department, then the time the body was removed from the emergency department is recorded.
- If the patient was dead on arrival, then the time the body was removed from the emergency department is recorded. If an emergency department physician certified the death of the patient outside the emergency department, then the time the patient was certified dead is recorded.
- If the patient was registered, advised of another health-care service, and left the emergency department without being attended by a health-care professional, then the time the patient leaves the emergency department is recorded.

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—physical departure date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2019–20](#)

**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](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—physical departure time, hhmm](#)

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—physical departure time, hhmm](#)

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—presentation time, hhmm](#)

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—presentation time, hhmm](#)

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—presentation date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—presentation date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Denominator:**

Number of emergency department presentations.

**Denominator data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—physical departure date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2019–20](#)

**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](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—physical departure time, hhmm](#)

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—physical departure time, hhmm](#)

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—presentation time, hhmm](#)

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—presentation time, hhmm](#)

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—presentation date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—presentation date, DDMMYYYY](#)

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

**Disaggregation:**

2019–20—State and territory.

**Disaggregation data elements:**

**Data Element / Data Set**

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

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Used for disaggregation by state/territory

**Data Element / Data Set**

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

**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**NMDS / DSS**

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2019–20](#)

**Guide for use**

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Used for disaggregation by state/territory

**Comments:**

Most recent data available for 2021 National Healthcare Agreement performance reporting: 2019–20.

Information about the volume of invalid records will be included in data quality statements.

## Representational attributes

**Representation class:** Percentage

**Data type:** Real

**Unit of measure:** Person

**Format:** NN[N]

## Indicator conceptual framework

**Framework and dimensions:** [Accessibility](#)

[Effectiveness](#)

## Data source attributes



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

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

**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: Final, the measure meets the intention of the indicator.

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:**

Supersedes [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21b–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion of patients whose length of emergency department stay is less than or equal to four hours, 2020](#)  
Health, Standard 13/03/2020

Has been superseded by [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21b–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion of patients whose length of emergency department stay is less than or equal to four hours, 2022](#)  
Health, Standard 24/09/2021

See also [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.5–Waiting times for emergency department care: proportion seen on time, 2019](#)  
Health, Superseded 13/10/2021

See also [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.6–Waiting times for emergency department care: waiting times to commencement of clinical care, 2019](#)  
Health, Superseded 13/10/2021

See also [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.7–Waiting times for emergency department care: percentage of patients whose length of emergency department stay is 4 hours or less, 2019](#)  
Health, Superseded 13/10/2021

See also [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.8–Waiting times for emergency department care: time spent in the emergency department, 2019](#)  
Health, Superseded 13/10/2021

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 19–Selected potentially avoidable GP-type presentations to emergency departments, 2021](#)  
Health, Standard 16/09/2020

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21a–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion seen on time, 2021](#)  
Health, Standard 16/09/2020