

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21a—Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion seen on time, 2021

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National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21a—Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion seen on time, 2021

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Progress measure
Short name:	PI 21a—Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion seen on time, 2021
METEOR identifier:	725785
Registration status:	Health , Standard 16/09/2020
Description:	Percentage of patients whose clinical care commenced within national benchmarks for waiting times for each triage category in public hospital emergency departments.
Indicator set:	National Healthcare Agreement (2021) Health , Standard 19/11/2020
Outcome area:	Hospital and Related Care Health , Standard 07/07/2010 National Health Performance Authority (retired) , Retired 01/07/2016

Collection and usage attributes

Computation description:	See Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category, code N for description of each triage category. The numerator and denominator include records with a Type of visit of <i>Emergency presentation</i>. Records are excluded from both the numerator and denominator if the episode end status is any of '<i>Did not wait to be attended by a health care professional</i>', or '<i>Dead on arrival</i>', or '<i>Registered, advised of another health care service, and left the emergency department without being attended by a health care professional</i>' or if the waiting time to service is <i>invalid</i>. 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) 2018–19 and NAPEDC National Best Endeavours Data Set (NBEDS) 2018–19. Analysis by state and territory is based on location of service. Analysis by remoteness and Socio-Economic Indexes for Areas (SEIFA) Index of Relative Socio-Economic Disadvantage (IRSD) is based on usual residence of person. Presented as a percentage.
Computation:	$100 \times (\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator})$ Calculated overall and separately for each triage category.

Numerator:

Number of presentations to public hospital emergency departments that were treated within benchmarks for each triage category:

- Triage category 1: seen within seconds, calculated as less than or equal to 2 minutes
- Triage category 2: seen within 10 minutes
- Triage category 3: seen within 30 minutes
- Triage category 4: seen within 60 minutes
- Triage category 5: seen within 120 minutes

Numerator data elements:**Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—waiting time \(to commencement of clinical care\), total minutes 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

Data Element / Data Set

[Emergency department stay—waiting time \(to commencement of clinical care\), total minutes 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

Data Element / Data Set

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

Data Source

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

NMDS / DSS

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Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Emergency department stay—type of visit to emergency department, code N](#)

Data Source

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

NMDS / DSS

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

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Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Emergency department stay—type of visit to emergency department, code N](#)

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Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

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

Data Source

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

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Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

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

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Denominator:**Denominator data elements:**

Total presentations to public hospital emergency departments

Data Element / Data Set

[Emergency department stay—type of visit to emergency department, code N](#)

Data Source

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

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Data Element / Data Set

[Emergency department stay—type of visit to emergency department, code N](#)

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Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Disaggregation:

2019–20—Nationally, by triage category, by 2016 SEIFA IRSD deciles (not reported).

2019–20—State and territory, by triage category by:

- peer group
- Indigenous status
- remoteness (Australian Statistical Geography Standard (ASGS) 2016 Remoteness Structure)
- 2016 SEIFA IRSD quintiles.

Disaggregation by peer group uses the peer group classification as described in the AIHW publication [Australian hospital peer groups](#).

Some disaggregation may result in numbers too small for publication.

Disaggregation data elements:**Data Element / Data Set**

[Establishment—organisation identifier \(Australian\), NNX\[X\]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 and to derive hospital peer group

Data Element / Data Set

[Establishment—organisation identifier \(Australian\), NNX\[X\]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 and to derive hospital peer group

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—Indigenous status, code N](#)

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

[Person—Indigenous status, code N](#)

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

[Person—area of usual residence, statistical area level 2 \(SA2\) code \(ASGS 2016\) N\(9\)](#)

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 remoteness and SEIFA IRSD

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—area of usual residence, statistical area level 2 \(SA2\) code \(ASGS 2016\) N\(9\)](#)

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 remoteness and SEIFA IRSD

Data Element / Data Set

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

Data Source

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Comments:

Most recent data available for 2021 National Healthcare Agreement performance reporting: 2019–20.
Data source type: Administrative by-product data

For 2019–20 data, the 2016 SEIFA IRSD quintile and decile data will be produced using the ASGS 2016 geographical unit of Statistical Area Level 2.

Note that for the 2016 and previous reports the scope for the calculation of this indicator was limited to public hospitals in Peer Groups A and B, using the peer group classification method as reported in [Australian hospital statistics 2010–11](#), with the addition of emergency department activity at the Mersey Community Hospital.

Representational attributes

Representation class: Percentage

Data type: Real
Unit of measure: Person
Format: NN[N]

Indicator conceptual framework

Framework and dimensions: [Accessibility](#)

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.

Source and reference attributes

Reference documents: AIHW (Australian Institute of Health and Welfare) 2012. *Australian hospital statistics 2010–11*. Health services series no. 43. Cat. no. HSE 117. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 28 May 2020, <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/hospitals/australian-hospital-statistics-2010-11/contents/table-of-contents>

AIHW 2015. *Australian hospital peer groups*. Health services series no. 66. Cat. no. HSE 170. Canberra: AIHW. Viewed 28 May 2020, <https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports/hospitals/australian-hospital-peer-groups/contents/table-of-contents>

Relational attributes

**Related metadata
references:**

Supersedes [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21a–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion seen on time, 2020](#)

[Health](#), Standard 13/03/2020

Has been superseded by [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21a–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion seen on time, 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 12–Waiting times for GPs, 2021](#)

[Health](#), Standard 03/07/2020

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 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](#)

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