Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category, code N

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# Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category, code N

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| Identifying and definitional attributes | |
| Metadata item type: | Data Element |
| Short name: | Triage category |
| METEOR identifier: | 746627 |
| Registration status: | [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Standard 20/10/2021 |
| Definition: | The urgency of a non-admitted patient's need for medical and/or nursing care in an [**emergency department**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/745042), as assessed at [**triage**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/745263), as represented by a code. |
| Context: | Emergency department care. |
| Data Element Concept: | [Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/746625) |
| Value Domain: | [Triage category code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/746048) |

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| Value domain attributes | | |
| Representational attributes | | |
| Representation class: | Code | |
| Data type: | Number | |
| Format: | N | |
| Maximum character length: | 1 | |
|  | **Value** | **Meaning** |
| Permissible values: | 1 | Resuscitation: immediate (within seconds) |
|  | 2 | Emergency: within 10 minutes |
|  | 3 | Urgent: within 30 minutes |
|  | 4 | Semi-urgent: within 60 minutes |
|  | 5 | Non-urgent: within 120 minutes |

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| Source and reference attributes | |
| Submitting organisation: | Independent Hospital Pricing Authority |

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| Data element attributes | |
| Collection and usage attributes | |
| Collection methods: | This triage classification is to be used in the emergency departments of hospitals. Patients will be triaged into one of five categories on the Australasian Triage Scale according to the triageur's response to the question: 'This patient should wait for medical care no longer than ...?'.  The triage category is allocated by an experienced [**registered nurse**](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/327182) or medical practitioner. If the triage category changes, both triage categories can be captured, but the original category must be reported in this data element.  This data item is not required to be reported if the value for [Emergency department stay—type of visit to emergency department, code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/746599) is recorded as 5 Dead on arrival. |
| Comments: | Required to provide data for analysis of emergency department processes. |
| Source and reference attributes | |
| Reference documents: | Australasian College for Emergency Medicine 2013. Policy on the Australasian Triage Scale (P06). Melbourne: Australasian College for Emergency Medicine. Viewed 5 August 2016, <https://acem.org.au/getmedia/484b39f1-7c99-427b-b46e-005b0cd6ac64/P06-Policy-on-the-ATS-Jul-13-v04.aspx>  Australasian College for Emergency Medicine 2016. Guidelines on the implementation of the Australasian Triage Scale in Emergency Department (G24). Melbourne: Australasian College for Emergency Medicine Viewed 20 September 2016, <https://acem.org.au/getmedia/51dc74f7-9ff0-42ce-872a-0437f3db640a/G24_04_Guidelines_on_Implementation_of_ATS_Jul-16.aspx> |
| Relational attributes | |
| Related metadata references: | Supersedes [Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category, code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/684872)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Superseded 20/10/2021  See also [Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage date, DDMMYYYY](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/746632)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Standard 20/10/2021  [Tasmanian Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/15), Standard 22/03/2023  See also [Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage time, hhmm](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/746636)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Standard 20/10/2021  [Tasmanian Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/15), Standard 22/03/2023 |
| Implementation in Data Set Specifications: | [Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2022–23](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/742184)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Superseded 07/02/2023  ***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2022 ***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2023 ***Conditional obligation:***  This data item is required to be reported if the value for [Emergency department stay—type of visit to emergency department, code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/746599) is recorded as:   * Code 1 - Emergency presentation * Code 2 - Return visit, planned * Code 3 - Pre-arranged admission   [Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2023–24](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/759846)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Superseded 06/12/2023  ***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2023 ***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2024 ***Conditional obligation:***  This data item is required to be reported if the value for [Emergency department stay—type of visit to emergency department, code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/746599) is recorded as:   * Code 1 - Emergency presentation * Code 2 - Return visit, planned * Code 3 - Pre-arranged admission   [Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2024–25](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/775643)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Standard 06/12/2023  ***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2024 ***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2025 ***Conditional obligation:***  This data item is required to be reported if the value for [Emergency department stay—type of visit to emergency department, code N](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/746599) is recorded as:   * Code 1 - Emergency presentation * Code 2 - Return visit, planned * Code 3 - Pre-arranged admission |
| Implementation in Indicators: | **Used as Numerator** [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.5–Waiting times for emergency department care: proportion seen on time, 2024](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/789535)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Qualified 02/07/2024  [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.6–Waiting times for emergency department care: waiting times to commencement of clinical care, 2024](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/789537)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Qualified 02/07/2024  **Used as Disaggregation** [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.5–Waiting times for emergency department care: proportion seen on time, 2024](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/789535)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Qualified 02/07/2024  [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.6–Waiting times for emergency department care: waiting times to commencement of clinical care, 2024](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/789537)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Qualified 02/07/2024  [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, 2024](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/789543)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Qualified 02/07/2024  [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.8–Waiting times for emergency department care: time spent in the emergency department, 2024](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/789545)  [Health](https://meteor.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/12), Qualified 02/07/2024 |