

# Elective surgery waiting times NMDS 2024–25

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# Elective surgery waiting times NMDS 2024–25

## Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Data Set Specification

**METEOR identifier:** 775622

**Registration status:** [Health](#), Standard 06/12/2023

**DSS type:** National Minimum Data Set (NMDS)

**Scope:** The scope of this national minimum data set (NMDS) is patients on, or removed from, elective surgery waiting lists, as defined in the [Elective care waiting list episode—elective care type, code N](#) data element (also known as 'waiting list category'), which are managed by public acute hospitals and/or state and territory health authorities. For those patients admitted to hospital, neither the patient's election status nor the hospital type where the patient is admitted, is material.

From 2016–17 onwards, this NMDS amalgamates the previously separate Elective surgery waiting times (census data) NMDS and Elective surgery waiting times (removals data) NMDS.

Data are collected for patients on elective surgery waiting lists who are yet to be admitted to hospital and for patients who have been removed from an elective surgery waiting list (for admission or another reason).

Patients are included regardless of their readiness for care, as defined in the [Elective surgery waiting list episode—patient listing status, readiness for surgery code N](#) data element.

Hospitals may also collect information for other care (as defined in the 'waiting list category' data element), but this is not part of the NMDS.

Patients on, or removed from, elective surgery waiting lists managed by hospitals operated by the Australian Defence Force, corrections authorities and Australia's external territories are not included.

## Collection and usage attributes

**Statistical unit:** 1. Patients on waiting lists on census dates.

2. Patients removed from waiting lists (for admission or other reason) during each financial year.

**Collection methods:** [Elective care waiting list episode—category reassignment date, DDMMYYYY](#) is not required for reporting to the NMDS, but is necessary for the derivation of both [Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time at a census date, total days N\[NNN\]](#) and [Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time at removal, total days N\[NNN\]](#).

[Elective care waiting list episode—elective care type, code N](#) is not required for reporting to the NMDS, but is necessary for determining whether patients are in scope for the NMDS. These data elements should be collected at the local level and reported to state and territory health authorities as required.

National reporting arrangements:

State and territory health authorities provide the data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for national collation, on an annual basis.

Periods for which data are collected (all data are nationally collated on an annual basis):

1. Census data - Census dates are 30 September, 31 December, 31 March and 30 June.
2. Removals data - Financial years ending 30 June.

**Implementation start date:** 01/07/2024

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2025

**Comments:** There are two different types of data collected for this NMDS (census data and removals data) and the scope and list of data elements associated with each is different.

For the purposes of this NMDS, public hospitals include hospitals which are set up to provide services for public patients (as public hospitals do), but which are managed privately.

The inclusion of public patients removed from elective surgery waiting lists managed by private hospitals will be investigated in the future.

Glossary items:

Glossary terms that are relevant to this NMDS are included here:

[Clinical review](#)

[Elective surgery](#)

[Emergency surgery](#)

[Other surgery](#)

## Source and reference attributes

**Submitting organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## Relational attributes

**Related metadata references:** Supersedes [Elective surgery waiting times NMDS 2023–24 Health](#), Superseded 06/12/2023

See also [Elective care waiting list episode—category reassignment date, DDMMYYYY Health](#), Standard 05/02/2021  
[Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 28/03/2023

See also [Elective care waiting list episode—elective care type, code N Health](#), Standard 14/10/2021

## Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	<a href="#">Elective care waiting list episode—listing date for care, DDMMYYYY</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Elective surgery waiting list episode—intended procedure, code NNN</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Elective surgery waiting list episode—patient listing status, readiness for surgery code N</a>	Conditional	1

**Conditional obligation:**

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

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	<a href="#">Elective surgery waiting list episode—reason for removal from a waiting list, code N</a>	Conditional	1
	<b>Conditional obligation:</b> Only for patients removed from an elective surgery waiting list.		
-	<a href="#">Elective surgery waiting list episode—surgical specialty of scheduled doctor, code NN</a>	Mandatory	1
-	<a href="#">Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting list removal date, DDMMYYYY</a>	Conditional	1
	<b>Conditional obligation:</b> Only for patients removed from an elective surgery waiting list.		
	<b>DSS specific information:</b> Removal date ≥ date of birth Removal date ≥ listing date for care		
-	<a href="#">Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time at a census date, total days N[NNN]</a>	Conditional	1
	<b>Conditional obligation:</b> Only for patients on an elective surgery waiting list at time of census.		
-	<a href="#">Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time at removal, total days N[NNN]</a>	Conditional	1
	<b>Conditional obligation:</b> Only for patients removed from an elective surgery waiting list.		
-	<a href="#">Establishment—organisation identifier (Australian), NNX[X]NNNNN</a>	Mandatory	1
	<b>DSS specific information:</b> Establishment sector component of organisation identifier to be reported as: 1. Public (excluding psychiatric hospitals) 2. Private (excluding free-standing day hospital facilities) 3. Public psychiatric 4. Private free-standing day hospital facility		
-	<a href="#">Hospital census (of elective surgery waitlist patients)—census date, DDMMYYYY</a>	Conditional	1
	<b>Conditional obligation:</b> Only for patients on an elective surgery waiting list at time of census.		
-	<a href="#">Person—Indigenous status, code N</a>	Mandatory	1