Elective surgery waiting times (census data)
NMDS

Long form

Exported from METeOR (AIHW’s Metadata Online Registry)
Data Set Specification contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elective surgery waiting times (census data) NMDS</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective care waiting list episode—listing date for care, DDMMYYYY</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective surgery waiting list episode—extended wait patient indicator, code N</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective surgery waiting list episode—indicator procedure, code NN</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective surgery waiting list episode—surgical specialty (of scheduled doctor), code NN</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN]</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Establishment—organisation identifier (Australian), NNX[X]NNNNNN</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hospital census (of elective surgery waitlist patients)—census date, DDMMYYYY</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Identifying and definitional attributes

**Metadata item type:** Data Set Specification

**METeOR identifier:** 273042

**Registration status:** Health, Superseded 07/12/2005

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

**Scope:**
The scope of this minimum data set is patients on waiting lists for elective surgery (as defined in the Waiting list category data element) which are managed by public acute hospitals. This will include private patients treated in public hospitals, and may include public patients treated in private hospitals.

Hospitals may also collect information for other care (as defined in the Waiting list category data element), but this is not part of the National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) for Elective surgery waiting times.

Patients on waiting lists managed by hospitals operated by the Australian Defence Force, corrections authorities and Australia’s external territories are not currently included.

**Census data:**
Data are collected for patients on elective surgery waiting lists who are yet to be admitted to hospital or removed for another reason. The scope is patients on elective surgery waiting lists on a census date who are ‘ready for care’ as defined in the Elective surgery waiting list episode—patient listing status, readiness for care code N data element.

Collection and usage attributes

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

**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 Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN]. Elective care waiting list episode—elective care type, code N and Elective surgery waiting list episode—patient listing status, readiness for care code N are not required for reporting to the NMDS, but are 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 and nationally collated**
Census dates are 30 September, 31 December, 31 March and 30 June.

**Implementation start date:** 30/09/2002

**Implementation end date:** 30/06/2006

**Comments:**
There are two different types of data collected for this national minimum data set (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.

**Source and reference attributes**

**Submitting organisation:** National Health Information Management Group

**Relational attributes**

**Related metadata references:**

Has been superseded by Elective surgery waiting times (census data) NMDS 2006-09 Health, Superseded 03/12/2008

Supersedes Elective surgery waiting times, NMDS, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf (125.1 KB)

**Metadata items in this Data Set Specification**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seq No.</th>
<th>Metadata item</th>
<th>Obligation</th>
<th>Max occurs</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Elective care waiting list episode—listing date for care, DDMMYYYY</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
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<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Elective surgery waiting list episode—extended wait patient indicator, code N</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Elective surgery waiting list episode—indicator procedure, code NN</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Elective surgery waiting list episode—surgical specialty (of scheduled doctor), code NN</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN]</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Establishment—organisation identifier (Australian), NNX[X]NNNNNN</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-</td>
<td>Hospital census (of elective surgery waitlist patients)—census date, DDMMYYYY</td>
<td>Mandatory</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Elective care waiting list episode—listing date for care, DDMMYYYY

Identifying and definitional attributes

Short name: Listing date for care
METeOR identifier: 269957
Registration status: Health, Superseded 25/01/2018
Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 01/12/2016

Definition: The date on which a hospital or a community health service accepts notification that a patient/client requires care/treatment.

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept: Elective care waiting list episode—listing date for care
METeOR identifier: 269474
Registration status: Health, Standard 01/03/2005
Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 01/12/2016
ACT Health, Final 19/07/2018

Definition: The date on which a hospital or a community health service accepts notification that a patient/client requires care/treatment.
Context: Hospital non-admitted patient care.

Object class: Elective surgery (admitted patient care).

Property: Elective care waiting list episode

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain: Date DDMMYYYY
METeOR identifier: 270566
Registration status: Housing assistance, Standard 01/03/2005
Health, Standard 01/03/2005
Early Childhood, Standard 21/05/2010
Homelessness, Standard 23/08/2010
Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 31/08/2016
WA Health, Endorsed 06/03/2014
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 31/10/2012
Indigenous, Endorsed 11/08/2014
Commonwealth Department of Health, Standard 14/10/2015
Disability, Standard 07/10/2014
Children and Families, Standard 22/11/2016
Community Services (retired), Standard 01/03/2005
National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016
ACT Health, Final 19/07/2018
Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired), Not progressed 15/04/2019

Definition: The day of a particular month and year.

Representational attributes

Representation class: Date
Data type: Date/Time
Format: DDMMYYYY
Maximum character length: 8
**Data element attributes**

**Collection and usage attributes**

**Guide for use:**

For elective surgery, the listing date is the date on which the patient is added to an elective surgery waiting list.

The acceptance of the notification by the hospital or community health service is conditional upon the provision of adequate information about the patient and the appropriateness of the patient referral.

**Comments:**

The hospital or community health service should only accept a patient onto the waiting list when sufficient information has been provided to fulfil state/territory, local and national reporting requirements.

**Source and reference attributes**

**Origin:**

National Health Data Committee

**Relational attributes**

**Related metadata references:**

- Has been superseded by Elective care waiting list episode—listing date for care, DDMMYYYY Health, Standard 25/01/2018, ACT Health, Final 20/07/2018

- Is used in the formation of Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 19/11/2015, Tasmanian Health, Draft 24/03/2014

- Is used in the formation of Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 12/12/2018, Tasmanian Health, Draft 24/03/2014, National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016

- Is used in the formation of Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at removal), total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 19/11/2015, Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 02/12/2016, ACT Health, Final 08/08/2018

- Is used in the formation of Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at removal), total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 12/12/2018, Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 02/12/2016, ACT Health, Final 15/02/2019

- Is used in the formation of Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time at a census date, total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 18/12/2019, ACT Health, Final 09/08/2018

- Is used in the formation of Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time at removal, total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 18/12/2019, ACT Health, Final 09/08/2018

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:**

- Tasmanian Elective Surgery Waiting List Data Set - 2016 Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 19/12/2016

Supersedes Listing date for care, version 4, DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf (14.5 KB)
Identifying and definitional attributes

**Short name:** Clinical urgency

**METeOR identifier:** 270008

**Registration status:** Health, Superseded 12/06/2015

Tasmanian Health, Draft 13/09/2012

National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016

**Definition:** A clinical assessment of the urgency with which a patient requires elective hospital care, as represented by a code.

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

**Data element concept:** Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency

**METeOR identifier:** 269481

**Registration status:** Health, Superseded 12/06/2015

National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016

**Definition:** A clinical assessment of the urgency with which a patient requires elective hospital care.

**Context:** Elective surgery:

Categorisation of waiting list patients by clinical urgency assists hospital management and clinicians in the prioritisation of their workloads. It gives health consumers a reasonable estimate of the maximum time they should expect to wait for care. Clinical urgency classification allows a meaningful measure of system performance to be calculated, namely the number or proportion of patients who wait for times in excess of the maximum desirable time limit for their urgency category (metadata item the overdue patient status).

**Object class:** Elective surgery waiting list episode

**Property:** Clinical urgency

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

**Value domain:** Clinical urgency code N

**METeOR identifier:** 270635

**Registration status:** Health, Superseded 12/06/2015

National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016

**Definition:** A code set representing the clinical assessment of the urgency with which a patient requires hospital admission.

Representational attributes

**Representation class:** Code

**Data type:** Number

**Format:** N

**Maximum character length:** 1

**Permissible values:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Admission within 30 days desirable for a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point that it may become an emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Admission within 90 days desirable for a condition causing some pain, dysfunction or disability but which is not likely to deteriorate quickly or become an emergency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N
Admission at some time in the future acceptable for a condition causing minimal or no pain, dysfunction or disability, which is unlikely to deteriorate quickly and which does not have the potential to become an emergency.

**Data element attributes**

**Collection and usage attributes**

**Guide for use:**
The classification employs a system of urgency categorisation based on factors such as the degree of pain, dysfunction and disability caused by the condition and its potential to deteriorate quickly into an emergency. All patients ready for care must be assigned to one of the urgency categories, regardless of how long it is estimated they will need to wait for surgery.

**Comments:**
A patient's classification may change if he or she undergoes clinical review during the waiting period. The need for clinical review varies with the patient's condition and is therefore at the discretion of the treating clinician. The waiting list information system should be able to record dates when the classification is changed (metadata item Elective care waiting list episode—category reassignment date, DDMMYYYY).

**Source and reference attributes**

**Origin:**
National Health Data Committee

**Relational attributes**

**Related metadata references:**
Supersedes Clinical urgency, version 2, DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf (16.4 KB)

Has been superseded by Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N Health, Standard 12/06/2015, ACT Health, Final 03/08/2018

See also Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N Health, Superseded 13/12/2011

See also Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N Health, Superseded 12/06/2015

**Implementation in Indicators:**

**Used as numerator**

**Used as denominator**
Elective surgery waiting list episode—extended wait patient indicator, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Short name: Extended wait patient
METeOR identifier: 269964
Registration status: Health, Standard 01/03/2005
Definition: Whether a patient is an extended wait patient, as represented by a code.

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept: Elective surgery waiting list episode—extended wait patient indicator
METeOR identifier: 269479
Registration status: Health, Standard 01/03/2005
Definition: A patient with the lowest level of clinical urgency for an awaited procedure who has been on the waiting list for elective surgery for more than one year.
Context: Elective surgery:
The numbers and proportions of patients with extended waits are measures of hospital performance in relation to patient access to elective hospital care.

Object class: Elective surgery waiting list episode
Property: Extended wait patient indicator

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain: Extended wait patient indicator code N
METeOR identifier: 270633
Registration status: Health, Standard 01/03/2005
Definition: A code set representing the extended waiting status of a patient.

Representational attributes

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N
Maximum character length: 1
Permissible values:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Extended wait patient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Other patient</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: A patient is classified as an extended wait patient if the patient is in clinical urgency category 3 at the time of admission or at a census time and has been waiting for the elective surgery for more than one year.

Comments: This metadata item is used to identify clinical urgency category 3 patients who had waited longer than one year at admission or have waited longer than one year at the time of a census. An extended wait patient is not an overdue patient as there is no maximum desirable waiting time specified for patients in clinical urgency category 3 as they have been assessed as not having a clinically urgent need for the awaited procedure.
Source and reference attributes

*Submitting organisation:* Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Relational attributes

*Related metadata references:*

Is formed using Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 13/12/2011

Is formed using Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at removal), total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 13/12/2011

Supersedes Extended wait patient, version 1, Derived DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf (14.8 KB)
Identifying and definitional attributes

**Short name:** Indicator procedure  
**METeOR identifier:** 269991  
**Registration status:** Health, Superseded 07/12/2005  
**Definition:** Indicator procedure for which an elective surgery patient is waiting, as represented by a code.

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

**Data element concept:** Elective surgery waiting list episode—indicator procedure  
**METeOR identifier:** 269429  
**Registration status:** Health, Standard 01/03/2005  
**National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016**  
**Definition:** An indicator procedure is a procedure which is of high volume, and is often associated with long waiting periods.  
**Object class:** Elective surgery waiting list episode  
**Property:** Indicator procedure

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

**Value domain:** Indicator procedure code NN  
**METeOR identifier:** 270587  
**Registration status:** Health, Superseded 13/12/2011  
**National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016**  
**Definition:** A code set representing indicator procedures.  
**Classification Scheme:** Australian Classification of Health Interventions (ACHI) 5th edition

Representational attributes

**Representation class:** Code  
**Data type:** String  
**Format:** NN  
**Maximum character length:** 2  
**Permissible values:**

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<td>Cataract extraction</td>
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<td>02</td>
<td>Cholecystectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Coronary artery bypass graft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Cystoscopy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Haemorrhoidectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Hysterectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Inguinal herniorrhaphy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Myringoplasty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Myringotomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Prostatectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Septoplasty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Tonsillectomy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Total hip replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Total knee replacement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Varicose veins stripping and ligation</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Supplementary values:
Not applicable

Data element attributes
Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:
The procedure terms are defined by the ICD-10-AM (3rd edition) codes which are listed in comments below. Where a patient is awaiting more than one indicator procedure, all codes should be listed. This is because the intention is to count procedures rather than patients in this instance.

These are planned procedures for the waiting list, not what is actually performed during hospitalisation.

Comments:
The list of indicator procedures may be reviewed from time to time. Some health authorities already code a larger number of waiting list procedures.

Waiting list statistics for indicator procedures give a specific indication of performance in particular areas of elective care provision. It is not always possible to code all elective surgery procedures at the time of addition to the waiting list. Reasons for this include that the surgeon may be uncertain of the exact procedure to be performed, and that the large number of procedures possible and lack of consistent nomenclature would make coding errors likely. Furthermore, the increase in workload for clerical staff may not be acceptable. However, a relatively small number of procedures account for the bulk of the elective surgery workload. Therefore, a list of common procedures with a tendency to long waiting times is useful. Waiting time statistics by procedure are useful to patients and referring doctors. In addition, waiting time data by procedure assists in planning and resource allocation, audit and performance monitoring.

The following is a list of ICD-10-AM (3rd edition) codes, for the indicator procedures:

- Cataract extraction:
  - 42719-00 [201] 42731-00 [201] 42719-02 [201] 42791-02 [201] 42716-00 [202]
  - 42702-11 [200] 42719-00 [201] 42722-00 [201]

- Cholecystectomy:
  - 30448-00 [965] 30449-00 [965]

- Coronary Artery bypass graft:
Cystoscopy:
36812-00 [1088] 36812-01 [1088] 36836-00 [1097]

Haemorrhoidectomy:

Hysterectomy:

Inguinal herniorrhaphy:

Myringoplasty:
41527-00 [313] 41530-00 [313] 41533-01 [313] 41542-00 [315] 41635-10 [313]

Myringotomy:

Prostatectomy:

Septoplasty:
41672-02 [379] 41679-03 [379]

Tonsillectomy:
41789-00 [412] 41789-01 [412]

Total hip replacement:

Total knee replacement:
Varicose veins stripping and ligation:

32508-00 [727] 32508-01 [727] 32511-00 [727] 32504-01 [728] 32505-00 [728]
32514-00 [737]

Source and reference attributes

Origin:
National Health Data Committee

International Classification of Diseases - Tenth Revision - Australian Modification (3rd Edition) National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:
Has been superseded by Elective surgery waiting list episode—indicator procedure, code NN Health, Superseded 07/12/2005

Supersedes Indicator procedure, version 3, DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf (22.8 KB)
Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N

Identifying and definitional attributes

Short name: Overdue patient
METeOR identifier: 270009
Registration status: Health, Superseded 13/12/2011
Definition: Whether or not a patient is an overdue patient, as represented by a code.

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept: Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status
METeOR identifier: 269482
Registration status: Health, Superseded 25/01/2018
Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 07/12/2016
Definition: An overdue patient is one whose wait has exceeded the time that has been determined as clinically desirable in relation to the urgency category to which they have been assigned.
Context: Elective surgery:
The numbers and proportions of overdue patients represent a measure of the hospital’s performance in the provision of elective hospital care.
Object class: Elective surgery waiting list episode
Property: Overdue patient status

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain: Overdue patient status code N
METeOR identifier: 270636
Registration status: Health, Standard 01/03/2005
Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 07/12/2016
ACT Health, Final 03/08/2018
Definition: A code set representing the timeliness of patient care.

Representational attributes

Representation class: Code
Data type: Number
Format: N
Maximum character length: 1
Permissible values:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Overdue patient</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use: This metadata item is only required for patients in Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N categories with specified maximum desirable waiting times. Overdue patients are those for whom the hospital system has failed to provide timely care and whose wait may have an adverse effect on the outcome of their care. They are identified by a comparison of Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at removal), total days N[NNN] or Elective surgery waiting list episode —waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN] and the maximum desirable time limit for the Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N classification.
A patient is classified as overdue if ready for care and waiting time at admission or waiting time at a census date is longer than 30 days for patients in Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N category 1 or 90 days for patients in Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N category 2.

Comments:
This metadata item is not used for patients in Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N category 3 as there is no specified timeframe within which it is desirable that they are admitted. The metadata item Elective surgery waiting list episode—extended wait patient indicator, status code N identifies patients in Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N category 3 who have waited longer than one year at admission or at the time of a census.

Source and reference attributes
Origin:
National Health Data Committee

Relational attributes
Related metadata references:
See also Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N Health, Superseded 12/06/2015, Tasmanian Health, Draft 13/09/2012, National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016

Has been superseded by Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N Health, Superseded 12/06/2015

Is formed using Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 13/12/2011

Is formed using Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at removal), total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 13/12/2011

Supersedes Overdue patient, version 3, Derived DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf (15.4 KB)
Elective surgery waiting list episode—surgical specialty (of scheduled doctor), code NN

Identifying and definitional attributes

**Short name:** Surgical specialty  
**METeOR identifier:** 270146  
**Registration status:** Health, Superseded 19/11/2015  
National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016  
**Definition:** The area of clinical expertise held by the doctor who will perform the elective surgery, as represented by a code.

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

**Data element concept:** Elective surgery waiting list episode—surgical specialty (of scheduled doctor)  
**METeOR identifier:** 269607  
**Registration status:** Health, Superseded 12/12/2018  
National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016  
**Definition:** The area of clinical expertise held by the doctor who will perform the elective surgery.

**Context:** Elective surgery:

Many hospitals manage their waiting lists on a specialty basis. Current data shows that the total ready-for-care times waited and numbers of long wait patients vary significantly between specialties. Furthermore, the hospital capacity to handle the demand for elective surgery varies with specialty.

**Object class:** Elective surgery waiting list episode  
**Property:** Surgical specialty

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

**Value domain:** Elective surgery code NN  
**METeOR identifier:** 270728  
**Registration status:** Health, Superseded 19/11/2015  
National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016  
**Definition:** A code set representing types of elective surgery.

Representational attributes

**Representation class:** Code  
**Data type:** String  
**Format:** NN  
**Maximum character length:** 2  
**Permissible values:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Cardio-thoracic surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Ear, nose and throat surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>General surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Gynaecology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Neurosurgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>06</td>
<td>Ophthalmology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>07</td>
<td>Orthopaedic surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Plastic surgery</td>
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<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Urology</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Vascular surgery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above classifications are consistent with the Recommended Medical Specialties and Qualifications agreed by the National Specialist Qualification Advisory Committee of Australia, September 1993. Vascular surgery is a subspecialty of general surgery. The Royal Australian College of Surgeons has a training program for vascular surgeons. The specialties listed above refer to the surgical component of these specialties - ear, nose and throat surgery refers to the surgical component of the specialty otolaryngology; gynaecology refers to the gynaecological surgical component of obstetrics and gynaecology; ophthalmology refers to the surgical component of the specialty (patients awaiting argon laser phototheraphy are not included).

**Data element attributes**

**Source and reference attributes**

**Submitting organisation:** Hospital Access Program Waiting Lists Working Group

Waiting Times Working Group

**Origin:** National Health Data Committee

**Relational attributes**

**Related metadata references:**

Has been superseded by Elective surgery waiting list episode—surgical specialty (of scheduled doctor), code NN Health, Superseded 12/12/2018

Supersedes Surgical specialty, version 1, DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf (15.7 KB)
Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN]

Identifying and definitional attributes

Short name: Waiting time at a census date
METeOR identifier: 269961
Registration status: Health, Superseded 13/12/2011
Definition: 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.

Context: Elective surgery

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept: Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time
METeOR identifier: 269477
Registration status: Health, Standard 01/03/2005
Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 02/12/2016
National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016
ACT Health, Final 03/08/2018
Definition: The time elapsed for a patient waiting for elective surgery from the date they were added to the waiting list for the procedure.

Object class: Elective surgery waiting list episode
Property: Waiting time

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain: Total days N[NNN]
METeOR identifier: 270631
Registration status: Housing assistance, Standard 01/05/2013
Health, Standard 01/03/2005
Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 02/12/2016
National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016
ACT Health, Final 03/08/2018
Definition: Total number of days.

Representational attributes

Representation class: Total
Data type: Number
Format: N[NNN]
Maximum character length: 4
Unit of measure: 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 care', 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 care is calculated by subtracting the date(s) the person was recorded as 'not ready for care' from the date(s) the person was subsequently recorded as again being 'ready for care'.
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 the census date should be calculated by subtracting one Elective care waiting list episode—category reassignment date, DDMMYYYY from the subsequent Elective care waiting list episode—category reassignment date, DDMMYYYY, 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 care 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, or had extended waits at a census date. 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

**Origin:** National Health Data Committee

**Relational attributes**

**Related metadata references:**

- Is formed using Elective care waiting list episode—category reassignment date, DDMMYYYY Health, Superseded 12/06/2015
- Is formed using Elective care waiting list episode—listing date for care, DDMMYYYY Health, Superseded 25/01/2018, Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 01/12/2016
- Is used in the formation of Elective surgery waiting list episode—extended wait patient indicator, code N Health, Standard 01/03/2005
- Is used in the formation of Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N Health, Superseded 13/12/2011
Is used in the formation of Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N Health, Superseded 12/06/2015

Is formed using Elective surgery waiting list episode—patient listing status, readiness for care code N Health, Superseded 02/05/2013

Has been superseded by Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 19/11/2015, Tasmanian Health, Draft 24/03/2014

Is formed using Hospital census (of elective surgery waitlist patients)—census date, DDMMYYYY Health, Standard 01/03/2005, Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 02/12/2016, ACT Health, Final 20/07/2018

Supersedes Waiting time at a census date, version 2, Derived DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf (18.7 KB)
Establishment—organisation identifier (Australian), NNX[X]NNNNN

Identifying and definitional attributes
Short name: Establishment identifier
METeOR identifier: 269973
Registration status: Health, Standard 01/03/2005
WA Health, Endorsed 19/03/2015
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 31/10/2012
Indigenous, Draft 18/10/2012
Commonwealth Department of Health, Candidate 30/07/2015
National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016
ACT Health, Final 08/08/2018

Definition: The identifier for the establishment in which episode or event occurred. Each separately administered health care establishment to have a unique identifier at the national level.

Data element concept attributes
Identifying and definitional attributes
Data element concept: Establishment—organisation identifier
METeOR identifier: 269415
Registration status: Health, Standard 01/03/2005
Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 19/09/2016
WA Health, Endorsed 19/03/2015
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 31/10/2012
Indigenous, Draft 18/10/2012
National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016
ACT Health, Final 19/07/2018

Definition: An identifier for the establishment.
Object class: Establishment
Property: Organisation identifier

Value domain attributes
Identifying and definitional attributes
Value domain: Identifier NNX[X]NNNNN
METeOR identifier: 270569
Registration status: Health, Standard 01/03/2005
WA Health, Endorsed 19/03/2015
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 31/10/2012
Indigenous, Draft 18/10/2012
Commonwealth Department of Health, Candidate 30/07/2015
National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016
ACT Health, Final 08/08/2018

Definition: A combination of numeric and alphanumeric characters that identify an entity.

Representational attributes
Representation class: Identifier
Data type: String
Format: NNX[X]NNNNN
Maximum character length: 9

Data element attributes
Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:

Concatenation of:

- Australian state/territory identifier (character position 1);
- Sector (character position 2);
- Region identifier (character positions 3-4); and
- Organisation identifier (state/territory), (character positions 5-9).

Comments:

Establishment identifier should be able to distinguish between all health care establishments nationally.

Source and reference attributes

Origin:
National Health Data Committee

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

- Supersedes Establishment identifier, version 4, Derived DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf (17.0 KB)
- Is formed using Establishment—Australian state/territory identifier, code N Health, Superseded 18/12/2019, Commonwealth Department of Health, Candidate 16/07/2015, ACT Health, Final 09/08/2018
- See also Establishment—WA identifier, NNN[N] WA Health, Endorsed 04/03/2014
- Is formed using Establishment—organisation identifier (state/territory), NNNNN Health, Standard 01/03/2005, Commonwealth Department of Health, Candidate 16/07/2015, National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016, ACT Health, Final 09/08/2018
- See also Hospital—hospital identifier, XXXXX Health, Standard 16/01/2020
- See also Hospital—hospital identifier, XXXXX Health, Superseded 16/01/2020, Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standardisation pending 23/11/2015, ACT Health, Final 17/08/2018

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:

- Activity based funding: Emergency service care DSS 2013-2014 Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 31/10/2012
- Activity based funding: Emergency service care DSS 2014-15 Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 14/01/2015
- Activity based funding: Mental health care DSS 2015-16 Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 15/10/2014
- Acute coronary syndrome (clinical) NBPDS 2013- Health, Standard 02/05/2013
- Address details cluster Health, Standard 18/12/2019
Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS 2019–20 Health, Standard 12/12/2018

Alcohol and other drug treatment services NMDS 2020–21 Health, Standard 20/02/2020

Allied health non-admitted patient emergency department NBPDS Health, Standard 12/12/2018

Elective surgery waiting times cluster Health, Standard 18/12/2019

Elective surgery waiting times NMDS 2020–21 Health, Standard 18/12/2019

Emergency service care NBEDS 2020-21 Health, Standard 18/12/2019

Healthcare-associated infections NBEDS 2016- Health, Standard 25/01/2018

Hospital teaching, training and research activities NBEDS 2018-19 Health, Superseded 17/10/2018
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 27/11/2017

Hospital teaching, training and research activities NBEDS 2020–21 Health, Standard 18/12/2019

Maternity model of care NBPDS Health, Standard 14/05/2015

Non-admitted patient care aggregate NBEDS 2019-20 Health, Superseded 18/12/2019
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 01/07/2019

Non-admitted patient care aggregate NBEDS 2020–21 Health, Standard 18/12/2019

Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2020–21 Health, Standard 18/12/2019

Non-admitted patient NBEDS 2019-20 Health, Superseded 18/12/2019
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 01/07/2019

Non-admitted patient NBEDS 2020–21 Health, Standard 18/12/2019

Perinatal NMDS 2019–20 Health, Standard 12/12/2018

Perinatal NMDS 2020–21 Health, Standard 20/11/2019

Radiotherapy waiting times NMDS 2018- Health, Standard 25/01/2018
ACT Health, Final 08/08/2018

WA Health Non-Admitted Patient Activity and Wait List Data Collection (NAPAAWL DC) 2013-14 WA Health, Endorsed 19/03/2015

WA Health Non-Admitted Patient Activity and Wait List Data Collection (NAPAAWL DC) 2014-15 WA Health, Endorsed 24/04/2015

WA Health Non-Admitted Patient Activity and Wait List Data Collection (NAPAAWL DC) 2016-17 WA Health, Endorsed 30/05/2017

Implementation in Indicators:

Used as numerator
Identifying and definitional attributes

Short name: Census date
METeOR identifier: 270153
Registration status: Health, Standard 01/03/2005
Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 02/12/2016
ACT Health, Final 20/07/2018

Definition: Date on which the hospital takes a point in time (census) count of and characterisation of patients on the waiting list.

Data element concept attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Data element concept: Hospital census (of elective surgery waitlist patients)—census date
METeOR identifier: 269614
Registration status: Health, Standard 01/03/2005
Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 02/12/2016
ACT Health, Final 20/07/2018

Definition: Date on which the hospital takes a point in time (census) count of and characterisation of patients on the waiting list.

Context: Elective surgery:
This metadata item is necessary for the calculation of the waiting time until a census.

Object class: Hospital census
Property: Census date

Value domain attributes

Identifying and definitional attributes

Value domain: Date DDMMYYYY
METeOR identifier: 270566
Registration status: Housing assistance, Standard 01/03/2005
Health, Standard 01/03/2005
Early Childhood, Standard 21/05/2010
Homelessness, Standard 23/08/2010
Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 31/08/2016
WA Health, Endorsed 06/03/2014
Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 31/10/2012
Indigenous, Endorsed 11/08/2014
Commonwealth Department of Health, Standard 14/10/2015
Disability, Standard 07/10/2014
Children and Families, Standard 22/11/2016
Community Services (retired), Standard 01/03/2005
National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016
ACT Health, Final 19/07/2018
Commonwealth Department of Social Services (retired), Not progressed 15/04/2019

Definition: The day of a particular month and year.

Representational attributes

Representation class: Date
Data type: Date/Time
Format: DDMMYYYY
Maximum character length: 8
**Data element attributes**

**Collection and usage attributes**

**Guide for use:**
This date is recorded when a census is done of the patients on a waiting list.

**Source and reference attributes**

**Origin:**
National Health Data Committee

**Relational attributes**

**Related metadata references:**
- Supersedes Census date, version 2, DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf (13.4 KB)
- Is used in the formation of Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 13/12/2011
- Is used in the formation of Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 19/11/2015, Tasmanian Health, Draft 24/03/2014
- Is used in the formation of Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 12/12/2018, Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 02/12/2016, ACT Health, Final 08/08/2018
- Is used in the formation of Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time at a census date, total days N[NNN] Health, Superseded 18/12/2019, ACT Health, Final 09/08/2018

**Implementation in Data Set**

**Specifications:**
Elective surgery waiting times NMDS 2020–21 Health, Standard 18/12/2019

**Implementation in Indicators:**

**Used as numerator**
- Service Plan - Department of Health Tasmania: 2019, Elective Surgery - maximum wait days - Category 2, 2019 Tasmanian Health, Endorsed 24/07/2019