

# **Elective surgery waiting times National Minimum Data Set**

**National Health Data Dictionary, Version 12**

**National Health Data Committee**

**2003**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
Canberra

AIHW Cat. No. HWI 54

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This publication is part of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's National Health Data Dictionary Series. A complete list of the Institute's publications is available from the Publications Unit, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, GPO Box 570, Canberra ACT 2601, or via the Institute's web site (<http://www.aihw.gov.au>).

ISSN 1329-4555

ISBN 1 74024 303 X

### **Suggested citation**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare 2003. Elective surgery waiting times National Minimum Data Set. National Health Data Dictionary. Version 12. AIHW Cat. No. HWI 54. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare.

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Published by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

## **Introduction**

A National Minimum Data Set (NMDS) is a core set of data elements agreed by the National Health Information Management Group for mandatory collection and reporting at a national level. One NMDS may include data elements that are also included in another NMDS. A NMDS is contingent upon a national agreement to collect uniform data and to supply it as part of the national collection, but does not preclude agencies and service providers from collecting additional data to meet their own specific needs.

The National Health Data Dictionary contains definitions of data elements that are included in NMDS collections in the health sector, including data elements used to derive some of the performance indicators required under Australian Health Care Agreements (bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth and State/Territory governments about funding and delivery of health services).

The following pages contain the Elective surgery waiting times NMDS and its associated data elements and data element concepts.

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## Elective surgery waiting times NMDS

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<b>Admin. status:</b>	CURRENT	1/07/2001	Version number: 3
<b>Metadata type:</b>	NATIONAL MINIMUM DATA SET		
<b>Start date:</b>	1 July 1994		
<b>End date:</b>			
<b>Latest evaluation date:</b>			
<b>Scope:</b>	<p>The scope of this minimum data set is patients on, or removed from, 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.</p> <p>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 for elective surgery waiting times.</p> <p>Patients on, or removed from, waiting lists managed by hospitals operated by the Australian Defence Force, corrections authorities and Australia's external Territories are not currently included.</p> <p>There are two different types of data collected for this minimum data set (census data and removals data) and the scope and list of data elements associated with each is different.</p> <p>Census data:</p> <p>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 Patient listing status data element.</p> <p>Removals data:</p> <p>Data are collected for patients who have been removed from an elective surgery waiting list (for admission or another reason). Patients who were 'ready for care' and patients who were 'not ready for care' at the time of removal are included.</p>		
<b>Statistical units:</b>	Patients on waiting lists on census dates; patients removed from waiting lists (for admission or other reason) during each financial year.		
<b>Collection methodology:</b>	Category reassignment date is required for reporting to the NMDS, but is necessary for the derivation of Waiting time at census date and Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list. Waiting list category and Patient listing status 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.		
<b>National reporting arrangements:</b>	State and Territory health authorities provide the data to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare for national collation on an annual basis.		
<b>Periods for which data are collected and nationally collated:</b>	Financial years ending 30 June each year for removals data Census dates are 30 September, 31 December, 31 March and 30 June		

<b>Data elements included:</b>	<b>Census data</b>
	Census date, version 2
	Clinical urgency, version 2
	Extended wait patient, version 1
	Establishment identifier, version 4 <sup>∇</sup>
	Indicator procedure, version 3
	Listing date for care, version 4
	Overdue patient, version 3
	Surgical specialty, version 1
	Waiting time at a census date, version 2
	<b>Removals data</b>
	Clinical urgency, version 2
	Extended wait patient, version 1
	Establishment identifier, version 4 <sup>∇</sup>
	Indicator procedure, version 3
	Listing date for care, version 4
	Overdue patient, version 3
	Reason for removal from elective surgery waiting list, version 4
	Removal date, version 1
	Surgical specialty, version 1
	Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list, version 2
<b>Supporting data elements and data element concepts:</b>	Category reassignment date, version 2
	Clinical review, version 1
	Elective care, version 1
	Elective surgery, version 1
	Establishment number, version 4
	Establishment sector, version 3
	Hospital census, version 1
	Hospital waiting list, version 2
	Non-elective care, version 1
	Patient listing status, version 3
	Region code, version 2
	State/Territory identifier, version 3
	Waiting list category, version 3
<b>Data elements in common with other NMDSs:</b>	See Appendix D
<b>Scope links with other NMDSs:</b>	
<b>Source organisation:</b>	National Health Information Management Group

**Comments:**

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.

Category reassignment date is not required for reporting to the NMDS, but is necessary for the derivation of Waiting time at census date and Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list. Waiting list category and Patient listing status 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.

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

Statistical units are entities from or about which statistics are collected or in respect of which statistics are compiled, tabulated or published.

## Data elements included

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## Census date

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	<b>000174</b>	<b>Version No:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/97		
<b>Definition:</b>	Date on which the hospital takes a point in time (census) count of and characterisation of patients on the waiting list.		
<b>Context:</b>	Elective surgery: This data element is necessary for the calculation of the waiting time until a census.		

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Numeric		
<b>Representational form:</b>	Date		
<b>Representational layout:</b>	DDMMYYYY		
<b>Minimum size:</b>	8		
<b>Maximum size:</b>	8		
<b>Data domain:</b>	Valid date		
<b>Guide for use:</b>	This date is recorded when a census is done of the patients on a waiting list.		
<b>Verification rules:</b>			
<b>Collection methods:</b>			
<b>Related metadata:</b>	supersedes previous data element Census date vers 1 is used in the calculation of Waiting time at a census date vers 2		

### Administrative Attributes

<b>Source document:</b>			
<b>Source organisation:</b>	National Health Data Committee		
<b>Information model link:</b>			
	NHIM Surveillance/monitoring event		
<b>Data Set Specifications:</b>		<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
	NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times	01/07/1997	
<b>Comments:</b>			

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## Clinical urgency

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	000025	<b>Version No:</b>	2
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/97		
<b>Definition:</b>	A clinical assessment of the urgency with which a patient requires elective hospital care.		
<b>Context:</b>	<p>Elective surgery:</p> <p>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 (data element 'Overdue patient').</p>		

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Numeric
<b>Representational form:</b>	Code
<b>Representational layout:</b>	N
<b>Minimum size:</b>	1
<b>Maximum size:</b>	1
<b>Data domain:</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Admission within 30 days desirable for a condition that has the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point that it may become an emergency</li> <li>2 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</li> <li>3 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</li> </ol>
<b>Guide for use:</b>	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.
<b>Verification rules:</b>	
<b>Collection methods:</b>	
<b>Related metadata:</b>	<p>is used in conjunction with Category reassignment date vers 2</p> <p>relates to the data element concept Clinical review vers 1</p> <p>is a qualifier of Extended wait patient vers 1</p> <p>is a qualifier of Overdue patient vers 3</p> <p>is used in conjunction with Patient listing status vers 3</p> <p>is a qualifier of Waiting time at a census date vers 2</p> <p>is a qualifier of Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list vers 2</p>

## Administrative Attributes

**Source document:**

**Source organisation:** National Health Data Committee

**Information model link:**

NHIM Assessment event

**Data Set Specifications:**

NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times

**Start date**

**End date**

01/07/1997

**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 (data element Category reassignment date).

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## Establishment identifier

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	<b>000050</b>	<b>Version No:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Derived Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/03		
<b>Definition:</b>	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.		

### Context:

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Alphanumeric
<b>Representational form:</b>	Code
<b>Representational layout:</b>	NNA(N)NNNNN
<b>Minimum size:</b>	9
<b>Maximum size:</b>	9

<b>Data domain:</b>	Concatenation of: State/Territory identifier (character position 1) Establishment sector (character position 2) Region code (character positions 3-4) Establishment number (character positions 5-9)
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### Guide for use:

### Verification rules:

### Collection methods:

<b>Related metadata:</b>	supersedes previous data element Establishment identifier vers 3
	is composed of Establishment number vers 4
	is composed of Establishment sector vers 3
	relates to the data element Person identifier vers 1
	relates to the data element Person identifier type – health care vers 1
	is composed of Region code vers 2
	is composed of State/Territory identifier vers 3

### Administrative Attributes

### Source document:

<b>Source organisation:</b>	National Health Data Committee
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### Information model link:

NHIM Organisation characteristic

**Data Set Specifications:**

	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
NMDS - Admitted patient care	01/07/2003	
NMDS - Admitted patient mental health care	01/07/2003	
NMDS - Admitted patient palliative care	01/07/2003	
NMDS - Alcohol and other drug treatment services	01/07/2003	
NMDS - Community mental health care	01/07/2003	
NMDS - Community mental health establishments	01/07/2003	
NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times	01/07/2003	
NMDS - Emergency department waiting times	01/07/2003	
NMDS - Non-admitted patient emergency department care	01/07/2003	
NMDS - Perinatal	01/07/2003	
NMDS - Public hospital establishments	01/07/2003	
DSS - Health care client identification	01/01/2003	

**Comments:**

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

## Extended wait patient

### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	000400	<b>Version No:</b>	1
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Derived Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/99		
<b>Definition:</b>	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.		
<b>Context:</b>	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.		

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Numeric		
<b>Representational form:</b>	Code		
<b>Representational layout:</b>	N		
<b>Minimum size:</b>	1		
<b>Maximum size:</b>	1		
<b>Data domain:</b>	1	Extended wait patient	
	2	Other patient	
<b>Guide for use:</b>	A patient is classified as an extended wait patient if the patient is clinical urgency category 3 at the time of admission or at a census time and has been waiting for elective surgery for more than one year.		
<b>Verification rules:</b>			
<b>Collection methods:</b>			
<b>Related metadata:</b>	is qualified by Clinical urgency vers 2		
	is derived from Waiting time at a census date vers 2		
	is derived from Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list vers 2		

### Administrative Attributes

<b>Source document:</b>			
<b>Source organisation:</b>	National Health Data Committee		
<b>Information model link:</b>	NHIM Performance indicator		
<b>Data Set Specifications:</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>	
NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times	01/07/1999		

<b>Comments:</b>	This data 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.
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## Indicator procedure

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

**Knowledgebase ID:** 000073 **Version No:** 3

**Metadata type:** Data Element

**Admin. status:** Current  
01/07/97

**Definition:** An indicator procedure is a procedure which is of high volume, and is often associated with long waiting periods.

**Context:** 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.

### Relational and Representational Attributes

**Datatype:** Numeric

**Representational form:** Code

**Representational layout:** NN

**Minimum size:** 2

**Maximum size:** 2

**Data domain:**

01	Cataract extraction
02	Cholecystectomy
03	Coronary artery bypass graft
04	Cystoscopy
05	Haemorrhoidectomy
06	Hysterectomy
07	Inguinal herniorrhaphy
08	Myringoplasty
09	Myringotomy
10	Prostatectomy
11	Septoplasty
12	Tonsillectomy
13	Total hip replacement
14	Total knee replacement
15	Varicose veins stripping and ligation
16	Not applicable

**Guide for use:** These procedure terms are defined by the ICD-10-AM (2002) 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.

**Verification rules:** Zero filled, right justified.

**Collection methods:**

**Related metadata:** supersedes previous data element Indicator procedure – ICD-9-CM code vers 2  
is used in conjunction with Procedure vers 5  
supplements the data element Waiting list category vers 3

## Administrative Attributes

**Source document:** International Classification of Diseases – Tenth Revision – Australian Modification ( 3rd edition 2002) National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney.

**Source organisation:** National Health Data Committee

**Information model link:**

NHIM Service provision event

<b>Data Set Specifications:</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
NMDS – Elective surgery waiting times	01/07/2002	

**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. The following is a list of ICD-10-AM codes, for the indicator procedures:

Cataract extraction:

42698-00 [195] 42702-00 [195] 42702-01 [195] 42698-01 [196] 42702-02 [196]  
42702-03 [196] 42698-02 [197] 42702-04 [197] 42702-05 [197] 42698-03 [198]  
42702-06 [198] 42702-07 [198] 42698-04 [199] 42702-08 [199] 42702-09 [199]  
42731-01 [200] 42698-05 [200] 42702-10 [200] 42734-00 [201] 42788-00 [201]  
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:

30443-00 [965] 30454-01 [965] 30455-00 [965] 30445-00 [965] 30446-00 [965]  
30448-00 [965] 30449-00 [965]

Coronary artery bypass graft:

38497-00 [672] 38497-01 [672] 39497-02 [672] 38497-03 [672] 38497-04 [673]  
38497-05 [673] 38497-06 [673] 39497-07 [673] 38500-00 [674] 38503-00 [674]  
38500-01 [675] 38503-01 [675] 38500-02 [676] 38503-02 [676] 38500-03 [677]  
38503-03 [677] 38500-04 [678] 38503-04 [678] 90201-00 [679] 90201-01 [679]  
90201-02 [679] 90201-03 [679]

Cystoscopy:

36812-00 [1088] 36812-01 [1088] 36836-00 [1097]

Haemorrhoidectomy:

32138-00 [949] 32132-00 [949] 32135-00 [949] 32135-01 [949]

Hysterectomy:

35653-00 [1268] 35653-01 [1268] 35653-02 [1268] 35653-03 [1268] 35661-00 [1268]  
35670-00 [1268] 35667-00 [1268] 35664-00 [1268] 35657-00 [1269] 35750-00 [1269]  
35756-00 [1269] 35673-00 [1269] 35673-01 [1269] 35753-00 [1269] 35753-01 [1269]  
35756-01 [1269] 35756-02 [1269] 35667-01 [1269] 35664-01 [1269] 90450-00 [989]  
90450-01 [989] 90450-02 [989]

## Inguinal herniorrhaphy:

30614-03 [990] 30615-00 [997] 30609-03 [990] 30614-02 [990] 30609-02 [990]

## Myringoplasty:

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

## Myringotomy:

41626-00 [309] 31626-01 [309] 41632-00 [309] 41632-01 [309]

## Prostatectomy:

37203-00 [1165] 37203-01 [1165] 37203-02 [1165] 37207-00 [1166] 37207-01 [1166]  
37200-00 [1166] 37200-01 [1166] 37203-05 [1166] 37203-06 [1166] 37200-03 [1167]  
37200-04 [1167] 37209-00 [1167] 37200-05 [1167] 90407-00 [1168] 36839-03 [1162]  
36869-01 [1162]

## Septoplasty:

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

## Tonsillectomy:

41789-00 [412] 41789-01 [412]

## Total hip replacement:

49318-00 [1489] 49319-00 [1489] 49324-00 [1492] 49327-00 [1492] 49330-00 [1492]  
49333-00 [1492] 49345-00 [1492]

## Total knee replacement:

49518-00 [1518] 49519-00 [1518] 49521-00 [1519] 49521-01 [1519] 49521-02 [1519]  
49521-03 [1519] 49524-00 [1519] 49524-01 [1519] 49527-00

## Varicose veins stripping and ligation:

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

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## Listing date for care

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	000082	<b>Version No:</b>	4
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/02		
<b>Definition:</b>	The date on which a hospital or a community health service accepts notification that a patient/client requires care/treatment.		
<b>Context:</b>	Hospital non-admitted patient care. Community health care. Elective surgery (admitted patient care).		

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Numeric
<b>Representational form:</b>	Date
<b>Representational layout:</b>	DDMMYYYY
<b>Minimum size:</b>	8
<b>Maximum size:</b>	8
<b>Data domain:</b>	Valid date
<b>Guide for use:</b>	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. For elective surgery, the listing date is the date on which the patient is added to an elective surgery waiting list.
<b>Verification rules:</b>	
<b>Collection methods:</b>	
<b>Related metadata:</b>	supersedes previous data element Listing date for care vers 3 is used in conjunction with Patient listing status vers 3 is used in conjunction with Scheduled admission date vers 2 is used in the calculation of Waiting time at a census date vers 2 is used in the calculation of Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list vers 2

### Administrative Attributes

<b>Source document:</b>		
<b>Source organisation:</b>	National Health Data Committee	
<b>Information model link:</b>		
NHIM	Request for/entry into service event	
<b>Data Set Specifications:</b>		<b>Start date</b> <b>End date</b>
NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times		01/07/1994
<b>Comments:</b>	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.	

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## Overdue patient

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

**Knowledgebase ID:** 000085 **Version No:** 3

**Metadata type:** Derived Data Element

**Admin. status:** Current  
01/07/97

**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 provision of elective hospital care.

### Relational and Representational Attributes

**Datatype:** Numeric

**Representational form:** Code

**Representational layout:** N

**Minimum size:** 1

**Maximum size:** 1

**Data domain:**

1	Overdue patient
2	Other

**Guide for use:** This data element is only required for patients in clinical urgency 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 Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list or Waiting time at a census date and the maximum desirable time limit for the Clinical urgency classification.

A patient is classified as overdue if ready for care and Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list or Waiting time at a census date is longer than 30 days for patients in Clinical urgency category 1 or 90 days for patients in Clinical urgency category 2.

**Verification rules:**

**Collection methods:**

**Related metadata:**

- is qualified by Clinical urgency vers 2
- supersedes previous data element Overdue patient vers 2
- is derived from Waiting time at a census date vers 2
- is derived from Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list vers 2
- is derived from Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list vers 2

## Administrative Attributes

**Source document:**

**Source organisation:** National Health Data Committee

**Information model link:**

NHIM Performance indicator

**Data Set Specifications:**

**Start date**

**End date**

**Comments:**

This data item is not used for patients in Clinical urgency category 3 as there is no specified timeframe within which it is desirable that they are admitted. The data element Extended wait patient identifies patients in Clinical urgency category 3 who have waited longer than one year at admission or at the time of a census.

## Reason for removal from elective surgery waiting list

### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	<b>000142</b>	<b>Version No:</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/02		
<b>Definition:</b>	The reason why a patient is removed from the waiting list.		

<b>Context:</b>	Elective surgery:
	Routine admission for the awaited procedure is only one reason why patients are removed from the waiting list. Each reason for removal provides different information. These data are necessary to augment census and throughput data. For example, after an audit the numbers of patients on a list would be expected to reduce. If an audit were undertaken immediately prior to a census the numbers on the list may appear low and not in keeping with the number of additions to the list and patients admitted from the list.

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Numeric
<b>Representational form:</b>	Code
<b>Representational layout:</b>	N
<b>Minimum size:</b>	1
<b>Maximum size:</b>	1
<b>Data domain:</b>	<p>1 Admitted as an elective patient for awaited procedure in this hospital or another hospital</p> <p>2 Admitted as an emergency patient for awaited procedure in this hospital or another hospital</p> <p>3 Could not be contacted (includes patients who have died while waiting whether or not the cause of death was related to the condition requiring treatment)</p> <p>4 Treated elsewhere for awaited procedure, but not as a patient of this hospital's waiting list</p> <p>5 Surgery not required or declined</p> <p>6 Transferred to another hospital's waiting list</p> <p>9 Not known</p>
<b>Guide for use:</b>	<p>Patients undergoing the awaited procedure whilst admitted for another reason are to be coded as code 1.</p> <p>Code 2 identifies patients who were admitted ahead of their normal position in the queue because the condition requiring treatment deteriorated whilst waiting. Admission as an emergency patient could also be due to other causes such as inappropriate urgency rating, delays in the system, or unpredicted biological variation.</p> <p>Codes 3–5 provide an indication of the amount of clerical audit of the waiting lists. Code 4 gives an indication of patients treated other than as a patient of the hospital's waiting list. The awaited procedure may have been performed as an emergency or as an elective procedure.</p>

- Code 6 identifies patients who were transferred from one hospital's elective surgery waiting list to that of another hospital. The waiting time on the waiting lists at the initial hospital and subsequent hospitals should be combined for national reporting.
- Code 9 identifies patients removed from the waiting list for reasons unknown.

**Verification rules:****Collection methods:**

**Related metadata:** supersedes previous data element Reason for removal from elective surgery waiting list vers 3

**Administrative Attributes****Source document:**

Hospital Access Program Waiting Lists Working Group

**Source organisation:**

Waiting Times Working Group  
National Health Data Committee

**Information model link:**

NHIM Exit/leave from service event

**Data Set Specifications:**

NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times

**Start date**

**End date**

01/07/1994

**Comments:**

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## Removal date

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	<b>000798</b>	<b>Version No:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/02		
<b>Definition:</b>	Date on which a patient is removed from an elective surgery waiting list.		
<b>Context:</b>	Elective surgery: This data element is necessary for the calculation of the waiting time at removal from an elective surgery waiting list.		

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Numeric
<b>Representational form:</b>	Date
<b>Representational layout:</b>	DDMMYYYY
<b>Minimum size:</b>	8
<b>Maximum size:</b>	8
<b>Data domain:</b>	Valid date
<b>Guide for use:</b>	This date is recorded when a patient is removed from an elective surgery waiting list.
<b>Verification rules:</b>	Right justified and zero filled. Removal date >= date of birth Removal date >= listing date for care
<b>Collection methods:</b>	
<b>Related metadata:</b>	is used in the calculation of Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list vers 2

### Administrative Attributes

<b>Source document:</b>		
<b>Source organisation:</b>	National Health Data Committee	
<b>Information model link:</b>		
NHIM	Exit/leave from service event	
<b>Data Set Specifications:</b>		<b>Start date</b> <b>End date</b>
NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times		01/07/2002
<b>Comments:</b>	Removal date will be the same as admission date for patients in 'reason for removal from elective surgery waiting list' categories 1 and 2.	

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## Surgical specialty

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	<b>000161</b>	<b>Version No:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/01/95		
<b>Definition:</b>	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 show 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.

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Numeric
<b>Representational form:</b>	Code
<b>Representational layout:</b>	NN
<b>Minimum size:</b>	2
<b>Maximum size:</b>	2

<b>Data domain:</b>	01	Cardio-thoracic surgery
	02	Ear, nose and throat surgery
	03	General surgery
	04	Gynaecology
	05	Neurosurgery
	06	Ophthalmology
	07	Orthopaedic surgery
	08	Plastic surgery
	09	Urology
	10	Vascular surgery
	11	Other

**Guide for use:**

**Verification rules:**

**Collection methods:**

**Related metadata:**

## Administrative Attributes

**Source document:**

**Source organisation:** Hospital Access Program Waiting Lists Working Group  
National Health Data Committee  
Waiting Times Working Group

**Information model link:**

NHIM Labour characteristic

**Data Set Specifications:**

	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times	01/01/1995	

**Comments:**

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 phototherapy are not included).

## Waiting time at a census date

### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	000412	<b>Version No:</b>	2
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Derived Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/02		
<b>Definition:</b>	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.		
<b>Context:</b>	Elective surgery:		
	This is a critical elective surgery waiting times data element. 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.		

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Numeric
<b>Representational form:</b>	Quantitative value
<b>Representational layout:</b>	NNNN
<b>Minimum size:</b>	1
<b>Maximum size:</b>	4

**Data domain:** Count in number of days

**Guide for use:** The number of days is calculated by subtracting the Listing date for care from the Census date, 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 clinical urgency 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 Listing date for care from the Category reassignment date. 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 Category reassignment date from the subsequent Category reassignment date, and then added 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.

**Verification rules:****Collection methods:****Related metadata:**

is calculated using Category reassignment date vers 2

is calculated using Census date vers 2

is qualified by Clinical urgency vers 2

is used in the derivation of Extended wait patient vers 1

is calculated using Listing date for care vers 4

is used in the derivation of Overdue patient vers 3

is calculated using Patient listing status vers 3

supersedes previous derived data element Waiting time at a census date vers 1

**Administrative Attributes****Source document:****Source organisation:**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

National Health Data Committee

**Information model link:**

NHIM Performance indicator

**Data Set Specifications:****Start date****End date****Comments:**

Elective surgery waiting times data collections include measures of waiting times at removal and at designated census dates. This data element is used to measure waiting times at a designated census date whereas the data element Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list 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).

## Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list

### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

**Knowledgebase ID:** 000413 **Version No:** 2

**Metadata type:** Derived Data Element

**Admin. status:** Current  
01/07/02

**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 for the procedure to the date they were removed from the waiting list.

**Context:** Elective surgery:  
This is a critical elective surgery waiting times data element. It is used to determine whether patients were overdue, or had extended waits when they were removed from the waiting list. 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.

### Relational and Representational Attributes

**Datatype:** Numeric

**Representational form:** Quantitative value

**Representational layout:** NNNN

**Minimum size:** 1

**Maximum size:** 4

**Data domain:** Count in number of days.

**Guide for use:** The number of days is calculated by subtracting the Listing date for care from the Removal date, 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 removal.

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 removal, then the number of days waited at the less urgent clinical urgency 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 removal) the number of days at the less urgent clinical urgency category should be calculated by subtracting the Listing date for care from the Category reassignment date. 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 removal should be calculated by subtracting one Category reassignment date from the subsequent Category reassignment date, and then adding the days together.

When a patient is removed from an elective surgery waiting list, for admission on an elective basis for the procedure they were awaiting, 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 removal 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.

**Verification rules:**

**Collection methods:**

**Related metadata:**

is calculated using Category reassignment date vers 2  
 is qualified by Clinical urgency vers 2  
 is used in the derivation of Extended wait patient vers 1  
 is calculated using Listing date for care vers 4  
 is used in the derivation of Overdue patient vers 3  
 is qualified by Patient listing status vers 3  
 is calculated using Removal date vers 1  
 supersedes previous derived data element Waiting time at admission vers 1

## Administrative Attributes

**Source document:**

**Source organisation:**

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare  
 National Health Data Committee

**Information model link:**

NHIM Performance indicator

**Data Set Specifications:**

NMDS - Elective surgery waiting time

**Start date**

**End date**

01/07/2002

**Comments:**

Elective surgery waiting times data collections include measures of waiting times at removal and at designated census dates. This data element is used to measure waiting times at removal whereas the data element Waiting time at Census Date measures waiting times at a designated census date.

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 would follow the patient to the next. Therefore when the patient is removed from the waiting list (for admission or other reason), their waiting time would include the total number of days on all lists (less days not ready for care and days in lower urgency categories).

## Supporting data elements and data element concepts

## Category reassignment date

### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	000391	<b>Version No:</b>	2
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/97		
<b>Definition:</b>	The date on which a patient awaiting elective hospital care is assigned to a different urgency category as a result of clinical review for the awaited procedure, or is assigned to a different patient listing status category ('ready for care' or 'not ready for care').		
<b>Context:</b>	Elective surgery: This date is necessary for the calculation of Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list and Waiting time at a census date.		

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Numeric
<b>Representational form:</b>	DATE
<b>Representational layout:</b>	DDMMYYYY
<b>Minimum size:</b>	8
<b>Maximum size:</b>	8
<b>Data domain:</b>	Valid date
<b>Guide for use:</b>	The date needs to be recorded each time a patient's urgency classification or listing status changes.
<b>Verification rules:</b>	
<b>Collection methods:</b>	
<b>Related metadata:</b>	relates to the data element Clinical review vers 1 is used in conjunction with Clinical urgency vers 2 is used in conjunction with Patient listing status vers 3 supersedes previous data element Urgency reassignment date vers 1 is used in the calculation of Waiting time at a census date vers 2 is used in the calculation of Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list vers 2 is used in the calculation of Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list vers 2

### Administrative Attributes

<b>Source document:</b>			
<b>Source organisation:</b>	National Health Data Committee		
<b>Information model link:</b>	NHIM Assessment event		
<b>Data Set Specifications:</b>		<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times		01/07/1997	30/06/2002

### Comments:

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## Clinical review

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

**Knowledgebase ID:** 000024 **Version No:** 1

**Metadata type:** Data Element Concept

**Admin. status:** Current  
01/07/95

**Definition:** The examination of a patient by a clinician after the patient has been added to the waiting list. This examination may result in the patient being assigned a different urgency rating from the initial classification. The need for clinical review varies with a patient's condition and is therefore at the discretion of the treating clinician.

**Context:** Admitted patient care.

### Relational and Representational Attributes

**Datatype:**

**Representational form:**

**Representational layout:**

**Minimum size:**

**Maximum size:**

**Data domain:**

**Guide for use:**

**Verification rules:**

**Collection methods:**

**Related metadata:** relates to the data element Clinical urgency vers 2

### Administrative Attributes

**Source document:**

**Source organisation:** Hospital Access Program Waiting List Working Group  
National Health Data Committee

**Information model link:**

NHIM Assessment event

**Data Set Specifications:** **Start date** **End date**

**Comments:**

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## Elective care

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	<b>000348</b>	<b>Version No:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element Concept		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/95		
<b>Definition:</b>	Care that, in the opinion of the treating clinician, is necessary and admission for which can be delayed for at least 24 hours.		
<b>Context:</b>	Admitted patient care.		

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	
<b>Representational form:</b>	
<b>Representational layout:</b>	
<b>Minimum size:</b>	
<b>Maximum size:</b>	
<b>Data domain:</b>	
<b>Guide for use:</b>	
<b>Verification rules:</b>	
<b>Collection methods:</b>	
<b>Related metadata:</b>	relates to the data element Waiting list category vers 3

### Administrative Attributes

<b>Source document:</b>	
<b>Source organization:</b>	Hospital Access Program Waiting List Working Group National Health Data Committee
<b>Information model link:</b>	NHIM Service provision event
<b>Data Set Specifications:</b>	<b>Start date</b> <b>End date</b>

**Comments:**

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## Elective surgery

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	<b>000046</b>	<b>Version No:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element Concept		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/95		
<b>Definition:</b>	Elective care where the procedures required by patients are listed in the surgical operations section of the Medicare benefits schedule book, with the exclusion of specific procedures frequently done by non-surgical clinicians.		
<b>Context:</b>	Admitted patient care.		

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	
<b>Representational form:</b>	
<b>Representational layout:</b>	
<b>Minimum size:</b>	
<b>Maximum size:</b>	
<b>Data domain:</b>	
<b>Guide for use:</b>	
<b>Verification rules:</b>	
<b>Collection methods:</b>	
<b>Related metadata:</b>	relates to the data element Waiting list category vers 3

### Administrative Attributes

<b>Source document:</b>	
<b>Source organisation:</b>	Hospital Access Program Waiting List Working Group National Health Data Committee
<b>Information model link:</b>	NHIM Service provision event
<b>Data Set Specifications:</b>	<b>Start date</b> <b>End date</b>

**Comments:**

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## Establishment number

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	000377	<b>Version No:</b>	4
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/03		
<b>Definition:</b>	An identifier for an establishment, unique within the State or Territory.		
<b>Context:</b>	All health services.		

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Numeric
<b>Representational form:</b>	Identification number
<b>Representational layout:</b>	NNNNN
<b>Minimum size:</b>	5
<b>Maximum size:</b>	5
<b>Data domain:</b>	Valid establishment number
<b>Guide for use:</b>	
<b>Verification rules:</b>	
<b>Collection methods:</b>	
<b>Related metadata:</b>	is a composite part of Establishment identifier vers 4 supersedes previous data element Establishment number vers 3

### Administrative Attributes

<b>Source document:</b>		
<b>Source organisation:</b>		
<b>Information model link:</b>	NHIM Organisation characteristic	
<b>Data Set Specifications:</b>		<b>Start date</b> <b>End date</b>
DSS - Health care client identification		01/01/2003

<b>Comments:</b>	This data element supports the provision of unit record and/or summary level data by State and Territory health authorities as part of the NMDS - Emergency department waiting times.  Establishment number should be a unique code for the health care establishment used in that State/Territory or uniquely at a national level.
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## Establishment sector

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	000379	<b>Version No:</b>	3
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/01		
<b>Definition:</b>	A section of the health care industry with which a health care establishment can identify.		

#### Context:

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Numeric
<b>Representational form:</b>	Code
<b>Representational layout:</b>	N
<b>Minimum size:</b>	1
<b>Maximum size:</b>	1

<b>Data domain:</b>	1	Public
	2	Private

#### Guide for use:

#### Verification rules:

#### Collection methods:

**Related metadata:** is a composite part of Establishment identifier vers 4  
supersedes previous data element Establishment sector vers 2

### Administrative Attributes

#### Source document:

#### Source organisation:

#### Information model link:

NHIM Organisational setting

<b>Data Set Specifications:</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
DSS - Health care client identification	01/01/2003	

#### Comments:

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## Hospital census

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	<b>000066</b>	<b>Version No:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element Concept		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/01/95		
<b>Definition:</b>	A point in time count by a hospital of all its admitted patients and/or patients currently on a waiting list.		
<b>Context:</b>	Admitted patient care.		

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	
<b>Representational form:</b>	
<b>Representational layout:</b>	
<b>Minimum size:</b>	
<b>Maximum size:</b>	
<b>Data domain:</b>	
<b>Guide for use:</b>	
<b>Verification rules:</b>	
<b>Collection methods:</b>	
<b>Related metadata:</b>	relates to the data element Census date vers 2 relates to the data element Waiting time at a census date vers 2

### Administrative Attributes

<b>Source document:</b>			
<b>Source organisation:</b>			
<b>Information model link:</b>			
NHIM	Surveillance/monitoring event		
<b>Data Set Specifications:</b>		<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
<b>Comments:</b>			

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## Hospital waiting list

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

**Knowledgebase ID:** 000067 **Version No:** 2

**Metadata type:** Data Element Concept

**Admin. status:** Current  
01/07/02

**Definition:** A register which contains essential details about patients who have been assessed as needing elective hospital care.  
Elective care is care that, in the opinion of the treating clinician, is necessary and admission for which can be delayed for at least 24 hours.  
Patients on waiting lists for elective hospital care can be 'ready for care' or 'not ready for care' (as defined in Patient listing status).

**Context:** Admitted patient care.

### Relational and Representational Attributes

**Datatype:**

**Representational form:**

**Representational layout:**

**Minimum size:**

**Maximum size:**

**Data domain:**

**Guide for use:**

**Verification rules:**

**Collection methods:**

**Related metadata:** relates to the data element concept Elective care vers 1  
relates to the data element Patient listing status vers 3  
relates to the data element Waiting list category vers 3

### Administrative Attributes

**Source document:**

**Source organisation:**

**Information model link:**

NHIM Assessment event

**Data Set Specifications:** **Start date** **End date**

**Comments:**

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## Non-elective care

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	<b>000105</b>	<b>Version No:</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element Concept		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/96		
<b>Definition:</b>	Care that, in the opinion of the treating clinician, is necessary and admission for which cannot be delayed for more than 24 hours.		
<b>Context:</b>	Institutional health care.		

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	
<b>Representational form:</b>	
<b>Representational layout:</b>	
<b>Minimum size:</b>	
<b>Maximum size:</b>	
<b>Data domain:</b>	
<b>Guide for use:</b>	
<b>Verification rules:</b>	
<b>Collection methods:</b>	
<b>Related metadata:</b>	

### Administrative Attributes

<b>Source document:</b>			
<b>Source organisation:</b>	Hospital Access Program Waiting Lists Working Group/National Health Data Committee		
<b>Information model link:</b>	NHIM Service provision event		
<b>Data Set Specifications:</b>		<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>

**Comments:**

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## Patient listing status

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

**Knowledgebase ID:** 000120 **Version No:** 3

**Metadata type:** Data Element

**Admin. status:** Current  
01/07/97

**Definition:** An indicator of the person's readiness to begin the process leading directly to being admitted to hospital for the awaited procedure. A patient may be 'ready for care' or 'not ready for care'.

**Context:**

### Relational and Representational Attributes

**Datatype:** Numeric

**Representational form:** Code

**Representational layout:** N

**Minimum size:** 1

**Maximum size:** 1

**Data domain:**

1	Ready for care
2	Not ready for care

**Guide for use:** Ready for care patients are those who are prepared to be admitted to hospital or to begin the process leading directly to admission. These could include investigations/procedures done on an outpatient basis, such as autologous blood collection, pre-operative diagnostic imaging or blood tests. Not ready for care patients are those who are not in a position to be admitted to hospital. These patients are either:

- staged patients whose medical condition will not require or be amenable to surgery until some future date; for example, a patient who has had internal fixation of a fractured bone and who will require removal of the fixation device after a suitable time, or
- deferred patients who for personal reasons are not yet prepared to be admitted to hospital; for example, patients with work or other commitments which preclude their being admitted to hospital for a time.

Not ready for care patients could be termed staged and deferred waiting list patients, although currently health authorities may use different terms for the same concepts.

Staged and deferred patients should not be confused with patients whose operation is postponed for reasons other than their own unavailability; for example, surgeon unavailable, operating theatre time unavailable owing to emergency workload. These patients are still 'ready for care'.

Periods when patients are not ready for care should be excluded in determining Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list and Waiting time at a census date.

**Verification rules:**

**Collection methods:**

**Related metadata:** is a qualifier of Category reassignment date vers 2  
relates to the data element concept Hospital waiting list vers 2  
supersedes previous data element Patient listing status vers 2  
is used in conjunction with Waiting list category vers 3  
is a qualifier of Waiting time at removal from elective surgery waiting list  
vers 2

## Administrative Attributes

**Source document:**

**Source organisation:** Hospital Access Program Waiting Lists Working Group  
Waiting Times Working Group  
National Health Data Committee

**Information model link:**

NHIM Request for/entry into service event

<b>Data Set Specifications:</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>
NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times	01/07/1997	

**Comments:**

Only patients ready for care are to be included in the NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times. The dates when a patient listing status changes need to be recorded. A patient's classification may change if he or she is examined by a clinician during the waiting period, i.e. undergoes clinical review. 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 (data element Category reassignment date).

At the Waiting Times Working Group meeting on 9 September 1996, it was agreed to separate the data elements Patient listing status and Clinical urgency as the combination of these items had led to confusion.

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## Region code

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	<b>000378</b>	<b>Version No:</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/97		
<b>Definition:</b>	An identifier for location of health services in a defined geographic or administrative area.		
<b>Context:</b>	All health services.		

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Alphanumeric		
<b>Representational form:</b>	Code		
<b>Representational layout:</b>	AN		
<b>Minimum size:</b>	1		
<b>Maximum size:</b>	2		
<b>Data domain:</b>	Any valid region code created by a jurisdiction.		
<b>Guide for use:</b>	Domain values are specified by individual States/Territories. Regions may also be known as Areas or Districts.		
<b>Verification rules:</b>			
<b>Collection methods:</b>			
<b>Related metadata:</b>	is a composite part of Establishment identifier vers 4		

### Administrative Attributes

<b>Source document:</b>			
<b>Source organisation:</b>			
<b>Information model link:</b>			
NHIM Organisation characteristic			
<b>Data Set Specifications:</b>	<b>Start date</b>	<b>End date</b>	
DSS - Health care client identification	01/01/2003		

**Comments:**

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## State/Territory identifier

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### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	<b>000380</b>	<b>Version No:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/07/03		
<b>Definition:</b>	An identifier for Australian State or Territory.		
<b>Context:</b>	Public health care.		

### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Numeric		
<b>Representational form:</b>	Code		
<b>Representational layout:</b>	N		
<b>Minimum size:</b>	1		
<b>Maximum size:</b>	1		
<b>Data domain:</b>	1	New South Wales	
	2	Victoria	
	3	Queensland	
	4	South Australia	
	5	Western Australia	
	6	Tasmania	
	7	Northern Territory	
	8	Australian Capital Territory	
	9	Other territories (Cocos (Keeling) Islands, Christmas Island and Jervis Bay Territory)	

#### **Guide for use:**

#### **Verification rules:**

#### **Collection methods:**

<b>Related metadata:</b>	relates to the data element Address type vers 1
	relates to the data element Australian postcode vers 1
	relates to the data element Postal delivery point identifier vers 1
	is a composite part of Establishment identifier vers 4
	supersedes previous data element State identifier vers 2
	relates to the data element Suburb/town/locality vers 1

## Administrative Attributes

**Source document:** Adapted from Australian Standard Geographic Classification, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Catalogue No. 1216.0

**Source organisation:** National Health Data Committee

**Information model link:**

NHIM Address element

**Data Set Specifications:**

DSS - Health care client identification

**Start date**

**End date**

01/01/2003

**Comments:**

## Waiting list category

### Identifying and Definitional Attributes

<b>Knowledgebase ID:</b>	<b>000176</b>	<b>Version No:</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Metadata type:</b>	Data Element		
<b>Admin. status:</b>	Current		
	01/01/95		
<b>Definition:</b>	The type of elective hospital care that a patient requires.		

<b>Context:</b>	Admitted patients: Hospitals maintain waiting lists which may include patients awaiting hospital care other than elective surgery – for example, dental surgery and oncology treatments. This item is necessary to distinguish patients awaiting elective surgery (code 1) from those awaiting other types of elective hospital care (code 2). The waiting period for patients awaiting transplant or obstetric procedures is largely independent of system resource factors.
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### Relational and Representational Attributes

<b>Datatype:</b>	Numeric
<b>Representational form:</b>	Code
<b>Representational layout:</b>	N
<b>Minimum size:</b>	1
<b>Maximum size:</b>	1
<b>Data domain:</b>	1 Elective surgery 2 Other

<b>Guide for use:</b>	<p>Elective surgery comprises elective care where the procedures required by patients are listed in the surgical operations section of the Medicare Benefits Schedule, with the exclusion of specific procedures frequently done by non-surgical clinicians.</p> <p>Elective care is care that, in the opinion of the treating clinician, is necessary and admission for which can be delayed for at least twenty-four hours.</p> <p>Patients awaiting the following procedures should be classified as Code 2 – other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• organ or tissue transplant procedures</li> <li>• procedures associated with obstetrics (e.g. elective caesarean section, cervical suture)</li> <li>• cosmetic surgery, i.e. when the procedure will not attract a Medicare rebate</li> <li>• biopsy of:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– kidney (needle only)</li> <li>– lung (needle only)</li> <li>– liver and gall bladder (needle only)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• bronchoscopy (including fibre-optic bronchoscopy)</li> <li>• peritoneal renal dialysis</li> <li>• haemodialysis</li> <li>• colonoscopy</li> <li>• endoscopic retrograde cholangio</li> <li>• pancreatography (ERCP)</li> </ul>
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- endoscopy of:
  - biliary tract
  - oesophagus
  - small intestine
  - stomach
- endovascular interventional procedures
- gastroscopy
- miscellaneous cardiac procedures
- oesophagoscopy
- panendoscopy (except when involving the bladder)
- proctosigmoidoscopy
- sigmoidoscopy
- anoscopy
- urethroscopy and associated procedures
- dental procedures not attracting a Medicare rebate
- other diagnostic and non-surgical procedures.

These procedure terms are also defined by the ICD-10-AM (International Classification of Diseases – Tenth Revision – Australian Modification (3rd edition, 2002) National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney) codes which are listed under Comments below. This coded list is the recommended, but optional, method for determining whether a patient is classified as requiring elective surgery or other care. All other elective surgery should be included in waiting list Code 1 – elective surgery.

**Verification rules:****Collection methods:****Related metadata:**

relates to the data element concept Elective care vers 1

is supplemented by the data element Indicator procedure vers 3

is used in conjunction with Patient listing status vers 3

supersedes previous data element Waiting list category – ICD-9-CM code vers 2

**Administrative Attributes****Source document:**

International Classification of Diseases – Tenth Revision – Australian Modification (3rd edition, 2002) National Centre for Classification in Health, Sydney.

**Source organisation:**

Hospital Access Program Waiting Lists Working Group  
Waiting Times Working Group  
National Health Data Committee

**Information model link:**

NHIM Request for/entry into service event

**Data Set Specifications:**

NMDS – Elective surgery waiting times

**Start date**

**End date**

01/07/1999

**Comments:**

The table of ICD-10-AM procedure codes was prepared by the National Centre for Classification in Health. Some codes were excluded from the list on the basis that they are usually performed by non-surgeon clinicians.

A more extensive and detailed listing of procedure descriptors is under development. This will replace the list in the Guide for use above, to facilitate more readily the identification of the exclusions when the list of codes is not used.

## ICD-10-AM CODES FOR THE EXCLUDED PROCEDURES:

## Organ or tissue transplant:

90172-00 [555] 90172-01 [555] 90204-00 [659] 90204-01 [659] 90205-00 [660]  
 90205-01 [660] 13700-00 [801] 13706-08 [802] 13706-00 [802] 13706-06 [802]  
 13706-07 [802] 13706-09 [802] 13706-10 [802] 30375-21 [817] 90317-00 [954]  
 90324-00 [981] 36503-00 [1058] 36503-01 [1058] 14203-01 [1906]

## Procedures associated with obstetrics:

16511-00 [1274] Obstetric Blocks [1330] to [1345] and [1347]

## Biopsy (needle) of:

kidney: 36561-00 [1047]

lung: 38412-00 [550]

liver and gall bladder: 30409-00 [953] 30412-00 [953] 90319-01 [951]  
 30094-04 [964]

## Bronchoscopy:

41889-00 [543] 41892-00 [544] 41904-00 [546] 41764-02 [416] 41895-00 [544]  
 41764-04 [532] 41892-01 [545] 41901-00 [545] 41898-00 [543] 41898-01 [544]  
 41889-01 [543] 41849-00 [520] 41764-03 [520] 41855-00 [520]

## Peritoneal renal dialysis:

13100-06 [1061] 13100-07 [1061] 13100-08 [1061] 13100-00 [1060]

## Endoscopy of biliary tract:

30484-00 [957] 30484-01 [957] 30484-02 [974] 30494-00 [971] 30452-00 [971]  
 30491-00 [958] 30491-01 [958] 30485-00 [963] 30485-01 [963] 30452-01 [958]  
 30450-00 [959] 30452-02 [959] 90349-00 [975]

## Endoscopy of oesophagus:

30473-03 [850] 30473-04 [861] 41822-00 [861] 30478-11 [856] 41819-00 [862]  
 30478-10 [852] 30478-13 [861] 41816-00 [850] 41822-00 [861] 41825-00 [852]  
 30478-12 [856] 41831-00 [862] 30478-12 [856] 30490-00 [853] 30479-00 [856]

## Panendoscopy:

30476-03 [874] 32095-00 [891] 30568-00 [893] 30569-00 [894] 30473-05 [1005]  
 30473-00 [1005] 30473-02 [1005] 30478-00 [1006] 30478-14 [1006] 30478-01 [1007]  
 30478-02 [1007] 30478-03 [1007] 30478-15 [1007] 30478-16 [1007] 30478-17 [1007]  
 30478-20 [1007] 30478-21 [1007] 30473-01 [1008] 30478-04 [1008] 30473-06 [1008]  
 30478-18 [1008]

## Endoscopy of large intestine, rectum and anus:

32075-00 [904] 32090-00 [905] 32084-00 [905] 30479-02 [908] 90308-00 [908]  
 32075-01 [910] 32078-00 [910] 32081-00 [910] 32090-01 [911] 32093-00 [911]  
 32084-01 [911] 32087-00 [911] 30479-01 [931] 90315-00 [933]

## Miscellaneous cardiac:

38603-00 [642] 38600-00 [642] 38256-00 [647] 38256-01 [647] 38256-02 [647]  
 38278-00 [648] 38278-01 [648] 38284-00 [648] 90202-00 [649] 38470-00 [649]  
 38473-00 [649] 38281-01 [650] 38281-02 [650] 38281-03 [650] 38281-04 [650]  
 38281-05 [650] 38281-06 [650] 38281-07 [651] 38281-07 [651] 38281-08 [651]  
 38281-09 [651] 38281-10 [651] 38281-00 [652] 38278-02 [654] 38456-07 [654]  
 90203-00 [654] 38284-01 [654] 90219-00 [663] 38281-11 [655] 38281-12 [655]  
 38212-00 [665] 38209-00 [665] 38200-00 [667] 38203-00 [667] 38206-00 [667]  
 35324-00 [740] 35315-00 [758] 35315-01 [758]

## Endovascular interventional:

35304-01 [670] 35305-00 [670] 35304-00 [670] 35305-01 [670] 35310-00 [671]  
 35310-01 [671] 35310-03 [671] 35310-04 [671] 35310-02 [671] 35310-05 [671]  
 34524-00 [694] 13303-00 [694] 34521-01 [694] 32500-01 [722] 32500-00 [722]  
 13300-01 [738] 13300-02 [738] 13319-00 [738] 13300-00 [738] 13815-00 [738]  
 13815-01 [738] 34521-02 [738] 34530-04 [738] 90220-00 [738]

## Urethroscopy:

36800-00 [1090] 36800-01 [1090] 37011-00 [1093] 37008-01 [1093] 37008-00 [1093]  
 37315-00 [1112] 37315-01 [1116] 37318-01 [1116] 36815-01 [1116] 37854-00 [1116]  
 35527-00 [1116] 37318-04 [1117]

Dental:

Blocks [450] to [490]

Other diagnostic and non-surgical:

90347-01 [983] 90760-00 [1780] 90767-00 [1780] 13915-00 [1780] 13918-00 [1780]

13921-00 [1780] 13927-00 [1780] 13939-00 [1780] 13942-00 [1780]

90768-00 [1780] Blocks [1820] to 1939], [1940] to [2016]