Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN]

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
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Registration status:	Health!, Superseded 13/12/2011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:	Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time
Value Domain:	Total days N[NNN]

Value domain attributes

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:	Has been superseded by [Elective surgery waiting list episode—waiting time (at a census date), total days N[NNN]](#) [Health!](#), Superseded 19/11/2015
	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 12/06/2015
	Is used in the formation of [Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N](#) [Health!](#), Superseded 13/12/2011
	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](#), Superseded 16/06/2020
	Is formed using [Elective surgery waiting list episode—patient listing status, readiness for care code N](#) [Health!](#), Superseded 02/05/2013
	Is formed using [Hospital census (of elective surgery waitlist patients)—census date, DDMMYYYY](#) [Health!](#), Standard 01/03/2005 [Tasmanian Health](#), Standard 02/12/2016
	Is re-engineered from [Waiting time at a census date, version 2, Derived DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](#) (18.7 KB) *No registration status*

Implementation in Data Set Specifications:	[Elective surgery waiting times (census data) NMDS](#) [Health!](#), Superseded 07/12/2005 *Implementation start date:* 30/09/2002 *Implementation end date:* 30/06/2006
	[Elective surgery waiting times (census data) NMDS 2006-09](#) [Health!](#), Superseded 03/12/2008 *Implementation start date:* 30/09/2006 *Implementation end date:* 31/03/2009
	[Elective surgery waiting times (census data) NMDS 2009-12](#) [Health!](#), Superseded 13/12/2011 *Implementation start date:* 30/06/2009 *Implementation end date:* 30/06/2012 *DSS specific information:* Data collected for this item from 1 January 2012 to 30 June 2012 may not comply with the above requirements. Therefore, data collected from 1 January 2012 to 30 June 2012 may not be directly comparable to data collected between 1 July 2011 and 31 December 2011.