Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N

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# Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N

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| Identifying and definitional attributes | |
| Metadata item type: | Data Element |
| Short name: | Clinical urgency |
| METEOR identifier: | 270008 |
| Registration status: | [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 12/06/2015  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016 |
| Definition: | A clinical assessment of the urgency with which a patient requires elective hospital care, as represented by a code. |

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| Data element concept attributes | |
| Identifying and definitional attributes | |
| Data element concept: | [Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/269481) |
| METEOR identifier: | 269481 |
| Registration status: | [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 12/06/2015  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016 |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](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/269007) |
| Property: | [Clinical urgency](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/269075) |

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| Value domain attributes | |
| Identifying and definitional attributes | |
| Value domain: | [Clinical urgency code N](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/270635) |
| METEOR identifier: | 270635 |
| Registration status: | [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 12/06/2015  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016 |
| Definition: | A code set representing the clinical assessment of the urgency with which a patient requires hospital  [**admission**](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/327206). |

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| Representational attributes | | |
| Representation class: | Code | |
| Data type: | Number | |
| Format: | N | |
| Maximum character length: | 1 | |
|  | **Value** | **Meaning** |
| Permissible values: | 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 |
|  | 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 |
|  | 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 |



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| 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**](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/327214) 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: | Has been superseded by [Elective surgery waiting list episode—clinical urgency, code N](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/598034)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 05/02/2021  Is re-engineered from  [Clinical urgency, version 2, DE, NHDD, NHIMG, Superseded 01/03/2005.pdf](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/273226)  (16.4 KB)  *No registration status*  See also [Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/270009)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 13/12/2011  See also [Elective surgery waiting list episode—overdue patient status, code N](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/471710)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 12/06/2015 |
| Implementation in Data Set Specifications: | [Elective surgery waiting times (census data) DSS 1 January 2012-30 June 2012](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/470080)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Retired 13/12/2011  ***Implementation start date:*** 31/03/2012 ***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2012  [Elective surgery waiting times (census data) NMDS](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/273042)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), 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](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/335002)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), 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](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/375331)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 13/12/2011  ***Implementation start date:*** 30/06/2009 ***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2012  [Elective surgery waiting times (census data) NMDS 2012-13](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/472477)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 02/05/2013  ***Implementation start date:*** 30/09/2012 ***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2013  [Elective surgery waiting times (census data) NMDS 2013-15](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/520140)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 12/06/2015  ***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2013 ***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2015  [Elective surgery waiting times (removals data) DSS 1 January 2012-30 June 2012](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/470097)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Retired 13/12/2011  ***Implementation start date:*** 01/01/2012 ***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2012  [Elective surgery waiting times (removals data) NMDS](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/273057)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 07/12/2005  ***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2002 ***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2006  [Elective surgery waiting times (removals data) NMDS 2006-09](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/335007)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 03/12/2008  ***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2006 ***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2009  [Elective surgery waiting times (removals data) NMDS 2009-12](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/375336)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 13/12/2011  ***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2009 ***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2012  [Elective surgery waiting times (removals data) NMDS 2012-13](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/472497)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 02/05/2013  ***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2012 ***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2013  [Elective surgery waiting times (removals data) NMDS 2013-15](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/520154)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 12/06/2015  ***Implementation start date:*** 01/07/2013 ***Implementation end date:*** 30/06/2015  [Elective surgery waiting times cluster](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/464669)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 11/04/2014  [Elective surgery waiting times cluster](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/545693)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Superseded 19/11/2015 |
| Implementation in Indicators: | **Used as Numerator** [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Median waiting time for surgery for malignant cancer, 2011-12](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/530403)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Superseded 02/10/2014  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Median waiting time for surgery for malignant cancer, 2012-13](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/579970)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Number of surgeries for malignant cancer, 2011-12](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/530143)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Superseded 02/10/2014  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Number of surgeries for malignant cancer, 2012-13](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/579929)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of people who received surgery for malignant cancer within 30 days, 2011-12](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/530411)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Superseded 02/10/2014  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of people who received surgery for malignant cancer within 30 days, 2012-13](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/579993)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of people who received surgery for malignant cancer within 45 days, 2011-12](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/543422)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Superseded 02/10/2014  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of people who received surgery for malignant cancer within 45 days, 2012-13](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/579894)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of people who waited longer than the clinical urgency category time for surgery for malignant cancer, 2011-12](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/530408)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  [National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services: National Elective Surgery Target (Part 2)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/489708)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Standard 21/11/2013  **Used as Disaggregation** [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Median waiting time for elective surgery 2011-12](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/527347)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Superseded 28/05/2014  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Median waiting time for elective surgery 2012-13](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/532942)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Median waiting time for elective surgery, 2014](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/558302)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Median waiting time for elective surgery, 2015](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/603005)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Number of elective surgeries 2011-12](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/527374)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Superseded 25/07/2013  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Number of elective surgeries 2012-13](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/532929)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Superseded 28/05/2014  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Number of elective surgeries 2014](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/558288)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Patients who received their surgery within clinically recommended times 2011-12](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/527368)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Superseded 28/05/2014  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Patients who received their surgery within clinically recommended times 2012-13](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/532935)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of patients who received their surgery within clinically recommended times, 2014](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/558300)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of patients who received their surgery within clinically recommended times, 2015](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/603039)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  **Used as Denominator** [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of people who received surgery for malignant cancer within 30 days, 2011-12](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/530411)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Superseded 02/10/2014  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of people who received surgery for malignant cancer within 30 days, 2012-13](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/579993)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of people who received surgery for malignant cancer within 45 days, 2011-12](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/543422)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Superseded 02/10/2014  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of people who received surgery for malignant cancer within 45 days, 2012-13](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/579894)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  [National Health Performance Authority, Hospital Performance: Percentage of people who waited longer than the clinical urgency category time for surgery for malignant cancer, 2011-12](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/530408)  [National Health Performance Authority (retired)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/10), Retired 01/07/2016  [National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services: National Elective Surgery Target (Part 2)](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/content/489708)  [Health!](https://meteor-uat.aihw.gov.au/RegistrationAuthority/14), Standard 21/11/2013 |