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## *Relational and Representational Attributes*

Datatype: Numeric

Representational form: CODE

Representation layout: N

Minimum Size: 1

Maximum Size: 1

Data Domain: 1	Admission desirable within 30 days
2	Admission desirable within 31 days or over
3	Staged / deferred

Guide For Use: Ready for care patients (classified as 1 and 2) prepared to begin the process leading directly to admission which could include investigations/procedures done on an outpatient basis, such as autologous blood collection, pre-operative diagnostic imaging or blood tests.

The ready for care subclassification 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.

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 (classified 3) 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 work load etc. These patients are still 'ready for care'. Periods when patients are not ready for care should be excluded in determining values for the data elements Total ready for care time waited and Overdue patient. It may also be appropriate to tabulate patients not ready for care separately in the census data.

Related metadata: relates to the data element Hospital waiting list version 1  
is used in conjunction with Waiting list category version 1  
supersedes previous data element Patient listing status version 1  
is used in conjunction with Waiting list category - ICD-9-CM code version 2  
has been superseded by Patient listing status version 3  
has been superseded by Clinical urgency version 2

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## *Administrative Attributes*

Source Document:

Source Organisation: AIHW convened national waiting list workshop, March 1995

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Comments: It should be noted that only patients ready for care are to be included in the National Minimum Data Set - Waiting Lists 1996. 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 'Status reassignment date').

In the waiting list workshop on 31 March 1995, it was agreed to combine data elements Patient listing status and Clinical urgency as both items dealt with the same question regarding readiness for care.

## *Data Element Links*

*Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element*

NHIM Request for / entry into service event

*Data Agreements which include this Data Element*

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