

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.

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

Administrative Attributes

Source Document:

Source Organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
National Health Data Committee

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).

Data Element Links

Information Model Entities linked to this Data Element

NHIM Performance indicator

Data Agreements which include this Data Element

NMDS - Elective surgery waiting times From 01-Jul-02 to
