

National Healthcare Agreement: P35-Waiting times for emergency department care, 2010

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National Healthcare Agreement: P35-Waiting times for emergency department care, 2010

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Indicator
Short name:	Waiting times for emergency department care, 2010
METEOR identifier:	395017
Registration status:	Health! , Superseded 08/06/2011
Description:	Percentage of patients who are treated within national benchmarks for waiting times for each triage category in public hospital emergency departments.
Indicator set:	National Healthcare Agreement (2010) Health! , Superseded 08/06/2011
Outcome area:	Hospital and Related Care National Health Performance Authority (retired) , Retired 01/07/2016 Health! , Standard 07/07/2010
Data quality statement:	National Healthcare Agreement: P35-Waiting times for emergency department care, 2010 QS Health! , Superseded 08/06/2011

Collection and usage attributes

Computation description:	<p>The numerator and denominator include records with a Type of visit of 'Emergency presentation' or 'Not reported'.</p> <p>Records are excluded from both the numerator and denominator if the Episode end status is either 'Did not wait' or 'Dead on arrival', or if the Waiting time to service is invalid.</p> <p>See the Australasian Triage Scale for descriptions of each triage category, including indicative clinical descriptors.</p>
Computation:	<p>$100 \times (\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator})$</p> <p>Calculated overall and separately for each triage category.</p>
Numerator:	<p>Presentations to public hospital emergency departments that were treated within benchmarks for each triage category:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Triage category 1: seen within seconds, calculated as less than or equal to 2 minutes• Triage category 2: seen within 10 minutes• Triage category 3: seen within 30 minutes• Triage category 4: seen within 60 minutes• Triage category 5: seen within 120 minutes

Numerator data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

[Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—type of visit to emergency department, code N](#)

Data Source

[National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category, code N](#)

Data Source

[National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—waiting time \(to service delivery\), total minutes NNNNN](#)

Data Source

[National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Denominator:

Total presentations to public hospital emergency departments

Denominator data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

[Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—type of visit to emergency department, code N](#)

Data Source

[National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—person identifier, XXXXXX\[X\(14\)\]](#)

Data Source

[National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—episode end status, code N](#)

Data Source

[National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Disaggregation data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

Public hospital peer group

Data Source

[National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Establishment—Australian state/territory identifier, code N](#)

Data Source

[National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—Indigenous status, code N](#)

Data Source

[National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Person—area of usual residence, geographical location code \(ASGC 2006\) NNNNN](#)

Data Source

[National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Used for disaggregation by remoteness area and SEIFA of residence

Data Element / Data Set

[Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category, code N](#)

Data Source

[National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Comments: Specified disaggregation: Nationally and by state/territory (of hospital location): by Indigenous status, triage category, public hospital peer group

Available disaggregation: Nationally and by state/territory (of hospital location): by Indigenous status, remoteness area, SEIFA of residence, triage category, public hospital peer group

Data for 2008-09 will be available in June 2010.

Most recent data available for 2010 CRC baseline report: 2007-08

Representational attributes

Representation class: Percentage

Data type: Real

Unit of measure: Person

Format: NN[N]

Indicator conceptual framework

Framework and dimensions: [Accessibility](#)

Data source attributes

Data sources:

Data Source

[National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care Database](#)

Frequency

Annual

Data custodian

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Accountability attributes

Reporting requirements: National Healthcare Agreement

Organisation responsible for providing data: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Benchmark: Related National Partnership Agreement benchmark/target:
By 2012–13, 80 per cent of ED presentations are seen within clinically recommended triage times as recommended by the Australian College of Emergency Medicine.

Further data development / collection required: Specification: Interim

Deficiencies have been noted in the current definitions of key data items used to calculate waiting times, i.e. triage date/time, date and time patient presents, date/time treatment commences. NHSSC will oversee work to refine these definitions to ensure greater consistency of collection.

Work is also required on scope and required disaggregations of data from the National Non-admitted Patient Emergency Department Care database.

Work is required to improve the identification of Indigenous Australians within this data.

Other issues caveats: Disaggregation by peer group should be limited to Peer groups A and B, as this is the scope of the collection, and coverage varies for other hospitals by state and territory.

Disaggregation by Indigenous status will be considered pending confirmation of adequate data quality. Disaggregation based on data for those jurisdictions for which the quality of Indigenous status is considered acceptable.

Some disaggregations could result in numbers too small for publication.

Coverage of the data collection was about 78% of all ED presentations to public hospitals in 2007–08. These data are available for hospitals in Peer Groups A and B, and smaller hospitals in remote areas are less likely to provide these data. This means that data by remoteness area and Indigenous status should be interpreted with caution.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Has been superseded by [National Healthcare Agreement: P135-Waiting times for emergency department care, 2011](#)
[Health!](#), Superseded 31/10/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P14-Waiting times for GP's, 2010](#)
[Health!](#), Superseded 08/06/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P23-Selected potentially avoidable GP-type presentations to emergency departments, 2010](#)
[Health!](#), Superseded 08/06/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P24-GP-type services, 2010](#)
[Health!](#), Superseded 08/06/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P36-Waiting time for admission following emergency department care, 2010](#)
[Health!](#), Superseded 08/06/2011

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: P46-Rates of services: Outpatient occasions of service, 2010](#)
[Health!](#), Superseded 08/06/2011