# Elective surgery waiting list episode—patient listing status, readiness for care code N

## Exported from METEOR (AIHW's Metadata Online Registry)

# Elective surgery waiting list episode—patient listing status, readiness for care code N

## Identifying and definitional attributes

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| **Metadata item type:** | Data Element |
| **Short name:** | Patient listing status |
| **METEOR identifier:** | 471698 |
| **Registration status:** | Health!, Superseded 19/11/2015 |
| **Definition:** | An indicator of the person's readiness to begin the process leading directly to being admitted to hospital for the awaited procedure, as represented by a code. |
| **Data Element Concept:** | Elective surgery waiting list episode—patient listing status |
| **Value Domain:** | Readiness for care code N |

## Value domain attributes

### Representational attributes

| | | |
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| **Representation class:** | Code | |
| **Data type:** | Number | |
| **Format:** | N | |
| **Maximum character length:** | 1 | |
| | **Value** | **Meaning** |
| **Permissible values:** | 1 | Ready for care |
| | 2 | Not ready for care |

## Data element attributes

### Collection and usage attributes

| **Guide for use:** | A patient may be 'ready for care' or 'not ready for care'. Ready for care patients are those who are prepared to be admitted to hospital or to begin the process leading directly to admission. These could include investigations/procedures done on an outpatient basis, such as autologous blood collection, pre-operative diagnostic imaging or blood tests. Not ready for care patients are those who are not in a position to be admitted to hospital. These patients are either: |
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- staged patients whose medical condition will not require or be amenable to surgery until some future date; for example, a patient who has had internal fixation of a fractured bone and who will require removal of the fixation device after a suitable time; or
- deferred patients who for personal reasons are not yet prepared to be admitted to hospital; for example, patients with work or other commitments which preclude their being admitted to hospital for a time.

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 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 workload. These patients are still 'ready for care'.

Periods when patients are not ready for care should be excluded in determining 'Waiting time (at removal)' and 'Waiting time (at a census date)'.

| **Comments:** | 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 (metadata item Category reassignment date). |
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At the Waiting Times Working Group meeting on 9 September 1996, it was agreed to separate the metadata items Patient listing status, readiness for care and Clinical urgency as the combination of these items had led to confusion.

## Source and reference attributes

| **Submitting organisation:** | Hospital Access Program Waiting Lists Working Group |
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| | Waiting Times Working Group |
| **Origin:** | National Health Data Committee |

## Relational attributes

| **Related metadata references:** | Supersedes [Elective surgery waiting list episode—patient listing status, readiness for care code N](#)<br>[Health!](#), Superseded 02/05/2013 |
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| | Has been superseded by [Elective surgery waiting list episode—patient listing status, readiness for surgery code N](#)<br>[Health!](#), Superseded 18/12/2019 |
| | See also [Elective care waiting list episode—category reassignment date, DDMMYYYY](#)<br>[Health!](#), Superseded 19/11/2015 |

**Implementation in Data Set Specifications:**

[Elective surgery waiting times (census data) NMDS 2012-13](#)
[Health!](#), 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](#)
[Health!](#), Superseded 12/06/2015
*Implementation start date:* 01/07/2013
*Implementation end date:* 30/06/2015

[Elective surgery waiting times (census data) NMDS 2015-16](#)
[Health!](#), Superseded 19/11/2015
*Implementation start date:* 01/07/2015
*Implementation end date:* 30/06/2016