

Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category, code N

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Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Element
Short name:	Triage category
METEOR identifier:	471926
Registration status:	Health! , Superseded 30/01/2012
Definition:	The urgency of the patient's need for medical and nursing care as assessed at triage, as represented by a code.
Data Element Concept:	Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category
Value Domain:	Triage category code N

Value domain attributes

Representational attributes

Representation class:	Code
Data type:	Number
Format:	N
Maximum character length:	1

	Value	Meaning
Permissible values:	1	Resuscitation: immediate (within seconds)
	2	Emergency: within 10 minutes
	3	Urgent: within 30 minutes
	4	Semi-urgent: within 60 minutes
	5	Non-urgent: within 120 minutes

Data element attributes

Collection and usage attributes

Collection methods: This triage classification is to be used in the emergency departments of hospitals. Patients will be triaged into one of five categories on the National Triage Scale according to the triageur's response to the question: 'This patient should wait for medical care no longer than ...?'.

The triage category is allocated by an experienced [registered nurse](#) or medical practitioner. If the triage category changes, both triage categories can be captured, but the original category must be reported in this data element.

A triage category should not be assigned for patients who have an Episode end status of 'Dead on arrival, emergency department clinician certified the death of the patient'.

Source and reference attributes

Origin: National Triage Scale, Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:	<p>Supersedes Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category, code N Health!, Superseded 29/01/2012</p> <p>Has been superseded by Non-admitted patient emergency department service episode—triage category, code N Health!, Superseded 05/10/2016 Independent Hospital Pricing Authority, Standard 31/10/2012 National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016</p>
Implementation in Data Set Specifications:	<p>Non-admitted patient emergency department care DSS 1 January 2012-30 June 2012 Health!, Retired 30/01/2012 Implementation start date: 01/01/2012 Implementation end date: 30/06/2012</p> <p>Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2011-12 Health!, Superseded 30/01/2012 Implementation start date: 01/07/2011 Implementation end date: 30/06/2012</p>
Implementation in Indicators:	<p>Used as Numerator National Health Performance Authority, Healthy Communities: After-hours emergency department attendances, 2013–14 National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016</p> <p>National Health Performance Authority, Healthy Communities: In-hours emergency department attendances, 2013–14 National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016</p>