

National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21b—Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion of patients whose length of emergency department stay is less than or equal to four hours, 2021

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National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21b–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion of patients whose length of emergency department stay is less than or equal to four hours, 2021

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Indicator
Indicator type:	Progress measure
Short name:	PI 21b–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion of patients whose length of emergency department stay is less than or equal to four hours, 2021
METEOR identifier:	725783
Registration status:	Health! , Standard 16/09/2020
Description:	For all patients presenting to a public hospital emergency department (including publicly funded emergency departments), the percentage of presentations where the time from presentation to physical departure, i.e. the length of the Emergency department stay , is within four hours.
Indicator set:	National Healthcare Agreement (2021) Health! , Standard 19/11/2020
Outcome area:	Hospital and Related Care National Health Performance Authority (retired), Retired 01/07/2016 Health! , Standard 07/07/2010

Collection and usage attributes

Computation description: The scope for calculation of this indicator is all hospitals reporting to the [Non-admitted patient emergency department care \(NAPEDC\) National Minimum Data Set \(NMDS\) 2019–20](#) or [NAPEDC National Best Endeavours Data Set \(NBEDS\) 2019–20](#).

Calculation includes all presentations with a physical departure date/time in the reporting period, including records where the presentation date/time is prior to the reporting period. Invalid records are excluded from the numerator and denominator. Invalid records are records for which:

- Length of stay < 0
- Presentation date or time is missing
- Physical departure date or time is missing.

Calculation includes presentations with any Type of visit to emergency department.

Recording departure time

Emergency department (ED) stay length is the amount of time, measured in minutes, between when a patient presents at an emergency department, and when the patient physically departs the emergency department. It is calculated as per the guidelines included in the NAPEDC NMDS 2019–20 or NAPEDC NBEDS 2019–20:

- If the patient is subsequently admitted to this hospital (either short stay unit, hospital-in-the-home or non-emergency department hospital ward), then the time the patient leaves the emergency department to go to the admitted patient facility is recorded.
 - – Patients admitted to any other ward or bed within the emergency department have not physically departed the emergency department until they leave the emergency department
 - – If the patient is admitted and subsequently dies before leaving the emergency department, then the time the body was removed from the emergency department is recorded.
- If the service episode is completed without the patient being admitted, then the time the patient's emergency department non-admitted clinical care ended is recorded.
- If the service episode is completed and the patient is referred to another hospital for admission, then the time the patient leaves the emergency department is recorded.
- If the patient did not wait, then the time the patient leaves the emergency department or was first noticed as having left is recorded.
- If the patient leaves at their own risk, then the time the patient leaves the emergency department or was first noticed as having left is recorded.
- If the patient died in the emergency department, then the time the body was removed from the emergency department is recorded.
- If the patient was dead on arrival, then the time the body was removed from the emergency department is recorded. If an emergency department physician certified the death of the patient outside the emergency department, then the time the patient was certified dead is recorded.
- If the patient was registered, advised of another health-care service, and left the emergency department without being attended by a health-care professional, then the time the patient leaves the emergency department is recorded.

Presentation time and date are the time and date of the first recorded contact with an emergency department staff member. The first recorded contact can be the commencement of the clerical registration or triage process, whichever happens first.

Computation: $100 \times (\text{Numerator} \div \text{Denominator})$

Numerator: Number of emergency department presentations where emergency department stay length is less than or equal to four hours.

Numerator data elements: **Data Element / Data Set**

[Emergency department stay—physical departure date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2019–20](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Emergency department stay—physical departure date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2019–20](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Emergency department stay—physical departure time, hhmm](#)

Data Source

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

NMDS / DSS

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[Emergency department stay—presentation time, hhmm](#)

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Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Emergency department stay—presentation date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

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Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

[Emergency department stay—presentation date, DDMMYYYY](#)

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NMDS / DSS

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2019–20](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Denominator:

Number of emergency department presentations.

Denominator data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

[Emergency department stay—physical departure date, DDMMYYYY](#)

Data Source

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2019–20](#)

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Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Data Element / Data Set

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NMDS / DSS

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2019–20](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Disaggregation:

2019–20—State and territory.

Disaggregation data elements:

Data Element / Data Set

[Establishment—organisation identifier \(Australian\), NN\[X\]NNNNN](#)

Data Source

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NMDS 2019–20](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Used for disaggregation by state/territory

Data Element / Data Set

[Establishment—organisation identifier \(Australian\), NN\[X\]NNNNN](#)

Data Source

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

NMDS / DSS

[Non-admitted patient emergency department care NBEDS 2019–20](#)

Guide for use

Data source type: Administrative by-product data

Used for disaggregation by state/territory

Comments:

Most recent data available for 2021 National Healthcare Agreement performance reporting: 2019–20.

Information about the volume of invalid records will be included in data quality statements.

Representational attributes

Representation class: Percentage

Data type: Real

Unit of measure: Person

Format: NN[N]

Indicator conceptual framework

Framework and dimensions: [Accessibility](#)

[Effectiveness](#)

Data source attributes

Data sources:**Data Source**

[National non-admitted patient emergency department care database](#)

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

Further data development / collection required: Specification: Final, the measure meets the intention of the indicator.

Relational attributes

Related metadata references:

Supersedes [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21b–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion of patients whose length of emergency department stay is less than or equal to four hours, 2020](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 13/03/2020

Has been superseded by [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21b–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion of patients whose length of emergency department stay is less than or equal to four hours, 2022](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 24/09/2021

See also [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.5–Waiting times for emergency department care: proportion seen on time, 2019](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 09/04/2020

See also [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.6–Waiting times for emergency department care: waiting times to commencement of clinical care, 2019](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 09/04/2020

See also [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.7–Waiting times for emergency department care: percentage of patients whose length of emergency department stay is 4 hours or less, 2019](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 09/04/2020

See also [Australian Health Performance Framework: PI 2.5.8–Waiting times for emergency department care: time spent in the emergency department, 2019](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 09/04/2020

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 19–Selected potentially avoidable GP-type presentations to emergency departments, 2021](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 16/09/2020

See also [National Healthcare Agreement: PI 21a–Waiting times for emergency hospital care: proportion seen on time, 2021](#)
[Health!](#), Standard 16/09/2020