

The following data tables provide information around the number of elective surgical procedures performed and the number of patients still waiting across the Northern Territory hospital network.

Table 1. Elective Surgery Admissions: - this is a summary of the number of patients who have had their procedure during the quarter and the median waiting time. This has been broken down by clinical urgency code.

Elective Surgery Admissions - Northern Territory								
Reporting quarter	category 1		category 2		category 3		All categories	
	Number treated	Median wait time (days)	Number treated	Median wait time (days)	Number treated	Median wait time (days)	Total treated	Median wait time (days)
March qtr 2008	570	10	491	88	227	244	1288	48

(for category descriptions see Elective Surgery Homepage)

Number Treated - the number of patients on the elective surgery waitlist who underwent their procedure during the quarter

Waiting time – the number of days a patient has waited from the time they were placed on an elective surgery waiting list to when they are admitted for their surgery. Waiting times are considered a more reliable indicator of hospital performance than the size of the waiting list

Median - is the middle value in a data group, *not* the average; it provides an estimate of the length of time that half the people on the list waited for their surgery. This is sometimes referred to as the 50th percentile

Table 2. Indicator Procedure Waiting Times: – this will provide you with the median waiting times for patients to have similar surgery over the last quarter.

Indicator Procedure Waiting Times	
March Quarter	
Procedure	Median Waiting Time (days)
Cataract Surgery	199
Cholecystectomy	114
Cystoscopy	83
Haemorrhoidectomy	153
Hysterectomy	86
Inguinal Herniorrhaphy	145
Myringoplasty	237.5
Myringotomy	92.5
Prostatectomy	48
Septoplasty	160
Tonsillectomy	117
Total Hip Replacement	474
Total Knee Replacement	490
Varicose Vein Stripping	197.5
Other	26

Indicator procedures - are high volume procedures that account for the bulk of the elective surgery workload.

Table 3. Elective Surgery Waiting List by Specialty: – shows the number of patients still waiting for their procedure and the number of patients who are overdue at the end of the quarter. This information is also broken down by surgical specialty and only counts the patients who are ‘ready for care’.

Elective Surgery Waiting List by Specialty (ready for care)								
Surgical Specialty	as of 1st April 2008							
	Category 1		Category 2		Category 3		All categories	
	Number Waiting	Number Overdue	Number Waiting	Number Overdue	Number Waiting	Number Overdue	Number Waiting	Number Overdue
Cardio-thoracic	1	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
ENT	19	12	92	68	259	167	617	247
General	122	54	422	175	428	97	1298	326
Gynaecology	47	14	110	41	87	21	320	76
Ophthalmology	19	16	349	231	310	45	970	292
Orthopaedic	41	26	111	64	146	80	468	170
Plastic & reconstructive	7	2	20	11	28	24	92	37
Urology	10	5	28	14	13	2	72	21
Vascular	3	3	1	0	1	1	9	4
Other	15	6	46	33	62	31	193	70
Total	284	138	1180	637	1334	468	2798	1243

Number waiting – the number of patients who are still waiting for their procedure and are ‘ready for care’

Number overdue – the number of patients who are still waiting for their procedure, that have waited longer than the clinically desirable time and are ‘ready for care’.

Ready for care – Only patients who are ‘ready for care’ are included in this reported information. Ready for care implies that they are available to be admitted to hospital or to begin the process leading to admission.

Not ready for care – Patients ‘not ready for care’ includes those who have a medical condition that will not be amenable to surgery until some future date. Also included in this are patients who for work or personal reasons are currently unavailable for hospital admission.