

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 and specialty.

Elective Surgery Admissions - Northern Territory - June 08 Quarter								
Surgical Specialty	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)
ENT	25	22	47	55	34	325	106	92
General	174	18	188	78	75	236	437	50
Gynaecology	113	8	129	35	31	137	273	25
Ophthalmology	25	16	149	92	104	237	278	164
Orthopaedic	71	32	57	71	20	324	148	52
Plastic & reconstructive	21	10	8	81	*	1631	30	32
Urology	12	15	19	66	7	145	38	67
Vascular	*	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
Other	14	6	*	70	*	362	18	14
Total	456	14	598	71	275	253	1329	54

(for category descriptions see Elective Surgery Homepage)

An * in a table cell indicates that data has been suppressed to protect patient and clinician confidentiality

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	
June Quarter	
Procedure	Median Waiting Time (days)
Cataract Surgery	197
Cholecystectomy	117
Cystoscopy	66
Haemorrhoidectomy	75
Hysterectomy	88
Inguinal Herniorrhaphy	76
Myringoplasty	255
Myringotomy	40
Prostatectomy	29
Septoplasty	25.5
Tonsillectomy	103
Total Hip Replacement	107
Total Knee Replacement	202.5
Varicose Vein Stripping	117
Other	35

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 July 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
ENT	20	6	97	35	344	162	461	203
General	67	36	287	159	270	193	624	388
Gynaecology	52	25	113	74	71	54	236	153
Ophthalmology	21	5	341	116	253	211	615	332
Orthopaedic	33	11	93	37	139	73	265	121
Plastic & reconstructive	10	6	29	13	34	7	73	26
Urology	12	5	38	21	15	12	65	38
Vascular	*	-	-	-	-	-	*	-
Other	7	*	17	12	*	*	28	18
Total	223	97	1015	467	1130	715	2368	1279

(for category descriptions see Elective Surgery Homepage)

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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.