

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 - September 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	58	13	37	82	48	234	143	54
General	203	14	210	86	110	187	523	51
Gynaecology	260	3	135	42	35	134	430	12
Ophthalmology	38	15	135	128	103	236	276	131
Orthopaedic	57	11	26	24	27	321	110	24
Plastic & reconstructive	25	8	17	104	5	825	47	43
Urology	*	74	9	89	*	130	12	106
Vascular	*	6	*	190	-	-	*	60
Other	9	37	8	46	13	14	30	35
Total	655	9	578	72	342	193	1575	39

(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	
September 08 Quarter	
Procedure	Median Waiting Time (days)
Cataract Surgery	217
Cholecystectomy	45
Cystoscopy	57
Haemorrhoidectomy	48
Hysterectomy	76
Inguinal Herniorrhaphy	85
Myringoplasty	85
Myringotomy	29
Prostatectomy	122
Septoplasty	254
Tonsillectomy	64
Total Hip Replacement	38
Total Knee Replacement	129
Varicose Vein Stripping	198
Other	27

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 Oct 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	28	13	102	73	327	149	457	235
General	97	38	282	113	242	61	621	212
Gynaecology	81	36	81	35	45	11	207	82
Ophthalmology	14	10	289	188	262	41	565	239
Orthopaedic	34	24	96	59	129	51	259	134
Plastic & reconstructive	10	9	19	13	30	24	59	46
Urology	7	5	32	23	15	*	54	32
Vascular	12	12	13	13	*	*	28	28
Other	18	*	9	6	*	*	28	10
Total	301	150	923	523	1054	345	2278	1018

(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.