

## Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan Northern Territory Report for the December Quarter 2008

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 - December Quarter 2008								
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	51	12	58	59.5	56	192	165	57
General	272	17.5	178	63	84	159.5	534	36
Gynaecology	275	3	131	36	23	69	429	10
Ophthalmology	36	9	159	106	90	216.5	285	115
Orthopaedic	91	10	58	108.5	19	171	168	34.5
Plastic & reconstructive	11	46	15	99	8	552	34	85
Urology	14	31.5	24	155.5	6	155.5	44	98
Vascular	2	184.5	6	416	2	264.5	10	315.5
Other	26	29	8	37	-	-	34	30
Total	778	10	637	68	288	190.5	1703	36

(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 50<sup>th</sup> 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.

<b>Indicator Procedure Waiting Times</b>	
December Quarter 2008	
Procedure	Median Waiting Time (days)
Cataract Surgery	141
Cholecystectomy	63
Cystoscopy	42
Haemorrhoidectomy	52
Hysterectomy	47
Inguinal Herniorrhaphy	57.5
Myringoplasty	190
Myringotomy	90
Prostatectomy	102.5
Septoplasty	400
Tonsillectomy	49.5
Total Hip Replacement	52
Total Knee Replacement	108
Varicose Vein Stripping	92
Other	22

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’.

<b>Elective Surgery Waiting List by Specialty (ready for care)</b>								
Surgical Specialty	as of 1st Jan 2009							
	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	27	20	127	72	317	163	471	255
General	103	57	330	141	255	62	688	260
Gynaecology	36	16	90	27	53	12	179	55
Ophthalmology	19	14	286	181	267	22	572	217
Orthopaedic	22	19	81	45	116	45	219	109
Plastic & reconstructive	6	6	20	10	24	16	50	32
Urology	5	2	18	6	16	2	39	10
Vascular	10	10	8	8	2	2	20	20
Other	10	6	19	7	2	0	31	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>979</b>	<b>497</b>	<b>1052</b>	<b>324</b>	<b>2269</b>	<b>971</b>

(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.