

Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan Northern Territory Report for the March Quarter 2009

Table 1. Elective Surgery Admissions 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 - March Quarter 2009								
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	46	18.5	56	53	37	167	139	49
General	200	24	147	101	53	202	400	51
Gynaecology	247	3	121	43	34	91	402	11
Ophthalmology	27	8	108	70	92	183	227	113
Orthopaedic	87	17	41	93	18	276.5	146	42
Plastic & reconstructive	*	14	12	132.5	*	76	19	99
Urology	10	37.5	12	72	*	266	24	63
Vascular	*	317	*	20	-	-	*	168.5
Other	23	7	6	93.5	-	-	29	8
Total	647	10	504	69	239	182	1390	42

(for category descriptions see Elective Surgery Homepage)

* in a table cell indicates that data is not listed in order to protect patient and clinician confidentiality

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

Waiting time is 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: –provides the median waiting times for patients to have similar surgery over the last quarter.

Indicator Procedure Waiting Times	
March Quarter 2009	
Procedure	Median Waiting Time (days)
cataract surgery	124
cholecystectomy	121.5
cystoscopy	63
haemorrhoidectomy	109
hysterectomy	49
inguinal herniorrhaphy	78
myringoplasty	32
myringotomy	34
prostatectomy	84
septoplasty	139
tonsillectomy	96.5
total hip replacement	99.5
total knee replacement	207
varicose vein stripping	78
other	42

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 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	35	17	145	89	336	165	516	271
General	120	49	429	204	288	59	837	312
Gynaecology	67	23	128	41	74	7	269	71
Ophthalmology	18	14	268	185	276	26	562	225
Orthopaedic	34	17	99	52	125	44	258	113
Plastic & reconstructive	*	*	16	8	20	14	39	25
Urology	10	*	26	12	20	*	56	18
Vascular	8	7	10	8	*	*	20	17
Other	4	*	27	13	7	-	38	16
Total	299	138	1148	612	1148	318	2595	1068

(for category descriptions see Elective Surgery Homepage)

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

Number overdue is 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.