

Elective Surgery Waiting List Reduction Plan Northern Territory Report for the June 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 - June 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	45	13	76	63	35	413	156	61.5
General	245	25	182	108.5	55	175	482	51
Gynaecology	246	9	125	54	31	108	402	18
Ophthalmology	22	13	113	71	85	176	220	110
Orthopaedic	82	28	36	74	26	213	144	46
Plastic & reconstructive	14	20.5	10	93.5	*	137	27	68
Urology	14	33	8	87	*	280	25	81
Vascular	*	69.5	-	-	-	-	*	69.5
Other	7	2	*	85	*	97	13	12
Total	679	14	555	79	239	175	1473	45

(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	
June Quarter 2009	
Procedure	Median Waiting Time (days)
Cataract Surgery	126
Cholecystectomy	84
Cystoscopy	53.5
Haemorrhoidectomy	89
Hysterectomy	64
Inguinal Herniorrhaphy	103
Myringoplasty	183
Myringotomy	37
Prostatectomy	92
Septoplasty	63
Tonsillectomy	88
Total Hip Replacement	240
Total Knee Replacement	46
Varicose Vein Stripping	152
Other	30

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 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	15	8	150	56	272	91	437	155
General	117	67	503	276	319	74	939	417
Gynaecology	74	29	136	66	78	15	288	110
Ophthalmology	14	10	305	175	274	35	593	220
Orthopaedic	52	27	143	86	130	60	325	173
Plastic & reconstructive	*	*	13	7	21	13	37	22
Urology	12	9	33	15	18	*	63	27
Vascular	6	6	11	10	*	*	18	17
Other	8	*	17	13	*	-	27	18
Total	301	163	1311	704	1115	292	2727	1159

(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.