

Definition and Calculations for the National Emergency Access Target (NEAT)

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Publication date	09-Sep-2014
Functional Sub group	Corporate Administration - Information and data Clinical/ Patient Services - Information and data
Summary	The Definitions and Calculations for the National Emergency Access Target (NEAT) document have been developed to provide clarity to Local Health Districts and Networks around the appropriate data items to use for calculating the National Emergency Access Targets (NEAT) Indicator.
Author Branch	Health System Information & Performance Reporting
Branch contact	Health System Information & Performance 02 9391 9613
Applies to	Local Health Districts, Board Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Chief Executive Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Specialty Network Governed Statutory Health Corporations, Ministry of Health, Public Hospitals
Audience	Emergency Department Administrators and Data Managers, Performance Units, Data collection staff
Distributed to	Public Health System, Ministry of Health
Review date	09-Sep-2019
Policy Manual	Not applicable
File No.	H14/71544
Status	Obsolete
Obsolete Note	Information Bulletin status changed to obsolete - 17 March 2016. The cessation of the National Health Reform Agreement, the NEAT is no longer valid. NSW has replaced NEAT with the Emergency Treatment Performance (ETP) KPI.

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DEFINITION AND CALCULATIONS FOR THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY ACCESS TARGET (NEAT)

PURPOSE

The purpose of this information bulletin is to provide clarity around the appropriate data items to calculate the National Emergency Access Targets (NEAT) Indicator.

The Ministry of Health would like to eliminate potential confusion across Local Health Districts (LHDs) and Health Networks by confirming the way the indicator is measured and the relevant data elements that are used for this purpose.

This information bulletin specifies which data items are to be used, depending on the patient's mode of separation from the Emergency Department (ED), and ensure that the NSW data items used are in line with national definitions. This information bulletin is not meant to change current recording practices, unless those practices are not consistent with the current NSW Emergency Department Data Dictionary.

The outcome of this process is to ensure consistency of the measurement of NEAT, to improve the data quality of the relevant data items, and to ensure that NSW complies with the national definitions.

KEY INFORMATION

The calculation of the National Emergency Access Target indicator is a key component of the National Health Reform Agreement, specifically the National Partnership Agreement on Improving Public Hospital Services Schedule C (National Emergency Access Target – Facilitation and Reward Funding). It is also incorporated into the Local Health Districts' and Specialist Health Networks' Service Agreements.

The national definition is hosted on the AIHW METeOR site, and can be found using the following link: <http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/489630>

The measure is for the percentage of ED presentations where the total length of the emergency department stay is within 240 minutes (≤ 4 hours).

The total length of the emergency department stay is calculated from the commencement to the completion of the emergency department stay, where:

- The commencement of the emergency department stay is the earlier of:
 - 'presentation time' OR 'triage time'
- The completion point of the emergency department stay is determined by the 'ED Mode of Separation':

MODE OF SEPARATION <i>(where ED Type of Visit is not 12 or 13)</i>	DEPARTURE DESCRIPTION	DATA ITEM
01 Admitted: To Ward/inpatient unit, not a Critical Care Ward	The date and time the patient physically left (or was transported from) the ED	Actual Departure Date and Time
10 Admitted: To Critical Care Ward (including		

11	HDU/CCU/NICU) Admitted: Via Operating Suite		
12	Admitted: Transferred to another hospital		
02 04 05 09	Admitted & discharged as inpatient within ED Departed: Treatment completed Departed: Transferred to another hospital without first being admitted to the hospital from which transferred Departed: for other Clinical Service Location	The date and time the patient's emergency department non-admitted clinical care ended	The earlier of: Departure Ready Date and Time OR Actual Departure Date and Time
06 07 13	Departed: Did not wait Departed: Left at own risk Admitted: Left at own risk	The date and time the patient physically left the ED or was first noticed as having left	Actual Departure Date and Time
03 08	Admitted: Died in ED Dead on Arrival	The time the body was removed from the emergency department	Actual Departure Date and Time
99	Registered in Error	Excluded from the NEAT calculation	

Departure Ready

The NSW Emergency Department Data Dictionary (Version 4.0) states that a patient is considered to be ready for departure when the following conditions are met:

- For a non-admitted patient: This is the time at which the assessment and initial treatment of the person is completed such that if home arrangements of the person (including transport) were available the person could depart. This time is reached when the following steps are completed: -
 1. Completion of MDT assessment and documentation of assessment, tests and treatment
 2. Completion of clerical registration details
- Patients with an ED Mode of Separation of "99" (Registered in Error) are excluded from the NEAT calculation.
- Patients with an ED Type of Visit of "12" (Telehealth Presentation) and "13" (Current Admitted Patient Presentation) are also excluded from the NEAT calculation.

Data Quality

The Ministry of Health understands that there are data quality issues with respect to the data reported in the Departure Ready and Actual Departure fields. On this basis, where the 'Departure Ready Time' is recorded as occurring later than the 'Actual Departure Time', the earlier time will be used for measuring the emergency department length of stay for those presentations ending in 'Mode of Separation of 2, 4, 5 or 9.

It is expected that with the clarification provided by this information bulletin, LHDs will focus on these crucial data items and address any data quality issues that arise as a result.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The National NEAT Definition:

(<http://meteor.aihw.gov.au/content/index.phtml/itemId/489630>)

The NSW NEAT documentation:

(http://internal4.health.nsw.gov.au/hird/view_data_element_definition.cfm?ItemID=13747)

NSW Mode of Separation (ED) Codeset:

(http://internal4.health.nsw.gov.au/hird/view_domain_values.cfm?ItemID=10803)

NSW Definition for Actual Departure Date:

(http://internal4.health.nsw.gov.au/hird/view_data_element_definition.cfm?ItemID=1564)

NSW Definition for Departure Ready Date:

(http://internal4.health.nsw.gov.au/hird/view_data_element_definition.cfm?ItemID=2193)

ATTACHMENTS

None.