

Quarterly Report Technical Supplementary Information and Definitions

Data sources

This quarterly report draws data from these main sources:

- ACT Treasury and Australian Bureau of Statistics;
- ACT Patient Administration System;
- Emergency Department Information System; and
- Walk-in Centre Electronic Clinical Record.

Data on business activity is captured by clinical and administrative staff via the above sources. ACT Health's Digital Solution Division extracts the data and calculates performance against the range of activity and performance measures. Measures are defined (definitions included below) in accordance with accepted standards. Quarterly results for each measure are compiled by analysts and peer-reviewed for quality assurance.

Analysis

Activity is conducted at a whole-of-ACT level, except where stated in the report. Because ACT hospitals vary in size and type in terms of the services they provide, in most instances comparisons between them on activity or performance are not valid.

This quarterly report compares the latest performance results with those from the previous quarter and provides a graphical indication of trending results using the latest five quarters.

Stratification of results by priority, acuity or urgency is used to indicate performance against recommended standards. For example, triage categories 1 to 5 and the respective service time standards for each category are used to show emergency department performance. Similarly, hospital admissions are categorised as 'Acute', 'Subacute and Non-acute' and 'Mental health'. Elective surgeries and associated waiting times are categorised as 'Urgent', 'Semi-urgent' and 'Non-urgent'.

A selection of indicators to reflect the clinical quality of hospital services have been included in the Quality and Safety section.

Calculations and interpreting performance results

In most cases, the variance is a measure of the relative change between quarters (the current quarter divided by the previous quarter).

When a metric is presented as a percentage, for example the share of patients fully treated in Walk-in Centres, the variance is the absolute difference (the current quarter minus the previous quarter).

Some metrics also include a 'Share of total' percentage. Occasionally, the share of totals do not add to exactly 100%, which is due to rounding applied to the published figures.

Terms and definitions

Walk-in Centres (WiC)

WiC presentations	Number of presentations at all WiCs during the quarter.
Presentations at Tuggeranong	Number of presentations at the Tuggeranong WiC during the quarter.
Presentations at Belconnen	Number of presentations at the Belconnen WiC during the quarter.
Presentations at Gungahlin	Number of presentations at the Gungahlin WiC during the quarter.
Median wait time to treatment	Median time that patients waited from arrival to commencement of treatment, in minutes, at all WiCs during the quarter.
Median wait time at Tuggeranong	Median wait time to treatment, in minutes, at the Tuggeranong WiC during the quarter.
Median wait time at Belconnen	Median wait time to treatment, in minutes, at the Belconnen WiC during the quarter.
Median wait time at Gungahlin	Median wait time to treatment, in minutes, at the Gungahlin WiC during the quarter.
Percentage fully treated in the WiC	Percentage of presentations recorded with an outcome of fully treated in the WiC and referred to home during the quarter.
Fully treated at Tuggeranong	Percentage of presentations recorded with an outcome of fully treated in the WiC and referred to home, at the Tuggeranong WiC during the quarter.
Fully treated at Belconnen	Percentage of presentations recorded with an outcome of fully treated in the WiC and referred to home, at the Belconnen WiC during the quarter.
Fully treated at Gungahlin	Percentage of presentations recorded with an outcome of fully treated in the WiC and referred to home, at the Gungahlin WiC during the quarter.
Percentage redirected to ED	Percentage of all WiC presentations that were redirected to an emergency department during the quarter.
Redirected to ED from Tuggeranong	Percentage of Tuggeranong WiC presentations that were redirected to an emergency department during the quarter.
Redirected to ED from Belconnen	Percentage of Belconnen WiC presentations that were redirected to an emergency department during the quarter.
Redirected to ED from Gungahlin	Percentage of Gungahlin WiC presentations that were redirected to an emergency department during the quarter.

Terms and definitions continued

Emergency departments (EDs)

ED Presentations	Number of presentations at EDs that were completed during the quarter.
ED Presentations by triage category	Number of presentations at EDs for each triage category (1 – Resuscitation; 2 – Emergency; 3 – Urgent; 4 – Semi-urgent; 5 – Non-urgent).
Admission to hospitals from EDs	Number of presentations at EDs where the outcome was admission to hospital.
Patients treated and discharged home	Number of presentations at EDs where the outcome was treated and discharge to home.
Arrivals at ED by Ambulance	Number of presentations at EDs where the patient arrived by ambulance.
Patients starting ED treatment on time by triage category	Percentage of patients who are treated within nationally recommended waiting times for each triage category (Category 1 – immediate/within 2 minutes; Category 2 – within 10 minutes; Category 3 – within 30 minutes; Category 4 – within 60 minutes; Category 5 – within 120 minutes).
Patients starting ED treatment on time for all triage categories combined	Percentage of patients who are treated within nationally recommended waiting times for all triage categories combined.
Patients leaving ED within 4 hours	Percentage of presentations at EDs where the patient was either discharged (defined as when the patient was ready to depart) from the ED or was subsequently admitted to the hospital within 4 hours of arriving.
Patients who did not wait to be seen	Percentage of presentations at EDs where the patient did not wait to be seen by a healthcare professional.
Admissions from ED	Percentage of presentations at EDs that resulted in an admission to the hospital.
Median wait time to treatment in ED by urgency category	Median time between arriving at the ED and commencing treatment, by triage category. Calculated for patients where their treatment was completed.

Terms and definitions continued

Admitted patients

Admitted patient episodes of care	Number of hospitalisations that ended during the quarter.
Same day episodes of care	Number of hospitalisations for patients admitted to and discharged from hospital on the same date.
Overnight episodes of care	Number of hospitalisations for patients admitted to and discharged from hospital on different dates, where the hospitalisation ended during the quarter.
Total bed days of care	Sum of days stayed by patients discharged from hospital during the quarter (same day episodes are counted as 1 bed day).
Total overnight bed days of care	Sum of days stayed by patients discharged from hospital during the quarter, where the patient stayed overnight.
Acute overnight bed days	Sum of overnight bed days where hospitalisations were categorised as acute care.
Subacute and Non-acute overnight bed days	Sum of overnight bed days where hospitalisations were categorised as subacute or non-acute care.
Mental health overnight bed days	Sum of overnight bed days where hospitalisations were categorised as mental health care.
Babies born	The number of babies born in ACT public hospitals during the quarter.
Babies born by caesarean section	The number of babies born in ACT public hospitals during the quarter where the birth method was caesarean section.
Average length of stay (ALOS) for overnight patients	ALOS for overnight hospitalisations for patients discharged during the quarter.
ALOS for acute patients	ALOS for overnight hospitalisations that were categorised as acute care.
ALOS for subacute and non-acute patients	ALOS for overnight hospitalisations that were categorised as subacute or non-acute care.
ALOS for mental health patients	ALOS for overnight hospitalisations that were categorised as mental health care.

Note: For hospitalisations that involved newborn babies, only the qualified days, an equivalent of acute patient days, were counted towards the patient’s hospital stay.

Terms and definitions continued

Elective surgery

Total elective surgery procedures	Number of elective surgery procedures performed during the quarter.
Category 1 urgent elective surgery procedures performed	Number of elective surgery procedures performed during the quarter that were categorised by the patient’s surgeon as Urgency Category 1 (required within 30 days).
Category 2 semi-urgent elective surgery procedures performed	Number of elective surgery procedures performed during the quarter that were categorised by the patient’s surgeon as Urgency Category 2 (required within 90 days).
Category 3 non-urgent elective surgery procedures performed	Number of elective surgery procedures performed during the quarter that were categorised by the patient’s surgeon as Urgency Category 3 (required within 365 days).
Patients removed from the elective surgery waiting list for reasons other than surgery	Number of patients removed from the ACT elective surgery waiting list during the quarter, for reasons other than the patient received the surgery for which they were waiting.
Additions to the ACT elective surgery waiting list	Number of patients added to the ACT elective surgery waiting list during the quarter.
Patients waiting for elective surgery	Number of patients on the ACT elective surgery waiting list who were ready for care and waiting for surgery at the end of the quarter.
Patients overdue for elective surgery	Number of patients on the ACT elective surgery waiting list at the end of the quarter, who have waited longer than the recommended timeframe for their urgency category.
Urgent elective surgeries performed on time	Percentage of urgent elective surgeries performed during the quarter where patients waited 30 days or less.
Semi-urgent elective surgeries performed on time	Percentage of semi-urgent elective surgeries performed during the quarter where patients waited 90 days or less.
Non-urgent elective surgeries performed on time	Percentage of non-urgent elective surgeries performed during the quarter where patients waited 365 days or less.
Median waiting time to surgery	Median time spent waiting for surgery for patients who were removed from an ACT elective surgery waiting list during the quarter because they received their surgery. This excludes any days the patient was waiting with a less urgent clinical urgency category than their clinical urgency category at removal, and any days where the patient was not ready for surgery.

Terms and definitions continued

Quality & Safety

Proportion of patients readmitted to hospital within 28 days due to complications associated with their condition	The percentage of people discharged from hospital who were readmitted to hospital within 28 days due to complications associated with their condition (where the re-admission was unforeseen at the time of discharge).
Proportion of people who undergo a surgical procedure requiring an unplanned return to the operating theatre due to complications	The percentage of people who undergo a surgical procedure requiring an unplanned return to the operating theatre within a single episode of care in the quarter, due to complications associated with the primary reason they were in hospital.
Number of patients per 10,000 occupied bed days who acquire a <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> bacteraemia infection (SAB infection)	The number of people admitted to hospital who acquire a SAB infection during their episode of care (expressed as a rate per 10,000 occupied bed days).
Estimated Hand Hygiene Rate	The estimated hand hygiene rate for a hospital is a measure of how often hand hygiene is correctly performed during an audit period (expressed as a percentage).