

Operating theatre metrics

March 2024

Increased efficiency in theatres can generate significant improvements and savings. Assess surgical service performance using quality, process, activity and safety indicators. This tool provides a range of metrics to measure theatre performance and map trends. Some of the metrics noted are key measures of organisational performance and are reportable at the district and state level. Others are more appropriate to apply to local internal review and ongoing monitoring to drive efficiency.

	Determination	Indicator / measure	Target (if available)
Quality	Category 1 – % of patients treated in 30 days calendar year to date (Cal YTD)	KPI	100%
	Category 2 – % of patients treated in 90 days Cal YTD	KPI	97%
	Category 3 – % of patients treated in 365 days Cal YTD	KPI	97%
	Overdue category 1 (>30 days)	KPI	0
	Overdue category 2 (>90 days)	KPI	0
	Overdue category 3 (>365 days)	KPI	0
Activity	% theatre use	KPI	80%
	Anaesthesia care time	Measurement	
	% first case on-time theatre starts	Measurement	% and average time late start
	Theatre attendances (YTD)	Measurement	
	Surgical separations (YTD)	Measurement	
	Surgical separations (variations from YTD)	Measurement	
	% cancellations on day of surgery – patient-related reasons	KPI	<2%
	% cancellations on day of surgery – hospital-related reasons	KPI	<2%
	% patient related	Measurement	
	% hospital related	Measurement	
	Late-start minutes (average)	Measurement	
	Turnaround time by session or case	Measurement	
	Emergency department to surgery time for fractured hip	KPI	<36 hours
	Unplanned return to operating theatre		
	% day of surgery admission	KPI	90%
% target planned surgery performed as extended day only or day only	KPI	80%	

Recommended framework for prioritisation of clinical urgency, incorporating obstetric emergencies

Category	Priority	Maximum timeframe
A	Life threatening (including obstetrics)	1 hour
B	Highly critical (including organ or limb threatening)	2 hours
C	Critical	4 hours
D	Urgent	8 hours
E	Semi-urgent	24 hours
F	Non-urgent	72 hours

Same day surgery monitoring and aspirational benchmarks

G10B	Inguinal hernia	39%
H08B	Planned cholecystectomy	24%
D11Z	Tonsillectomy	23%
D10Z	Septoplasty	52%
D06Z	Functional endoscopic sinus surgery (FESS)	41%

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