

Appendix 2: Recommended guide on the assignment of clinical urgency categories

It is recognised that the assignment of urgency categories is a clinical decision. To guide that decision, the following table shows recommended urgency categories for common procedures in Victoria. This guidance is based on the usual urgency category listed in the National Elective Surgery Urgency Categorisation Guideline mapped to Victorian Principal Prescribed Procedure codes.¹⁰

To access advice on recommended categorisation for other less common procedures, please refer to the National Elective Surgery Urgency Categorisation Guideline <www.health.vic.gov.au/surgery>.

Principal Prescribed Procedure code	Procedure	Usual specialty	Recommended urgency category*
1	Coronary artery bypass graft	Cardio-thoracic	2
2	Replacement of heart valve	Cardio-thoracic	2
11	Tonsillectomy/Tonsillectomy & Adenoidectomy	Ear, nose and throat	3
12	Myringotomy	Ear, nose and throat	3
13	Septoplasty	Ear, nose and throat	3
23	Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery (FESS)	Ear, nose and throat	3
39	Thyroidectomy	General surgery	2
33	Local excision of lesion/lump of breast	General surgery	1
38	Mastectomy	General surgery	1
34	Release of carpal tunnel	General surgery	3
32	Cholecystectomy^	General surgery	2
196	Inguinal herniorrhaphy	General surgery	3
197	Other herniorrhaphy	General surgery	3
41	Colectomy	General surgery	1
37	Procedures for haemorrhoids	General surgery	3
205	Repair/closure of anal fistula#	General surgery	2
225	Rectal resection	General surgery	1
35	Ligation and stripping of varicose veins of legs	General surgery	3
52	Dilation and Curettage	Gynaecology	2
206	Gynaecological laparoscopy	Gynaecology	3
54	Hysterectomy	Gynaecology	3
55	Excision/destruction of lesion/tissue of cervix	Gynaecology	2

¹⁰ National Elective Surgery Urgency Categorisation Guideline April 2015 <www.health.vic.gov.au/surgery> <<http://www.coaghealthcouncil.gov.au/Publications/Reports/ArtMID/514/ArticleID/57/National-Elective-Surgery-Urgency-Categorisation-Guideline-April-2015>>.

Principal Prescribed Procedure code	Procedure	Usual speciality	Recommended urgency category*
59	Excision/destruction of lesion/tissue of uterus	Gynaecology	3
58	Vaginal repair – anterior and/or posterior	Gynaecology	3
73	Incision, division, excision and decompression of spinal canal and spinal cord structures	Neurosurgery	2
86	Craniotomy and/or craniectomy^	Neurosurgery	1 or 2
91	Repair of cataract^	Ophthalmology	3
97	Procedures on vitreous^	Ophthalmology	2
92	Excision/destruction of lesion/tissue of eyelid	Ophthalmology	3
117	Repair procedures on shoulder and elbow	Orthopaedics	3
134	Reduction of fracture with internal fixation#	Orthopaedics	1 or 2
111	Removal of internal fixation device of bone#	Orthopaedics	2 or 3
113	Total hip replacement	Orthopaedics	3
116	Arthroscopy of knee	Orthopaedics	3
120	Repair of cruciate ligaments	Orthopaedics	3
114	Total knee replacement	Orthopaedics	3
115	Excision/repair of bunion and other toe deformities	Orthopaedics	3
150	Local excision/destruction of lesion/tissue of skin and subcutaneous tissue	Plastic surgery	3
212	Excisional debridement of skin and soft tissue wound, infection or burn #	Plastic surgery	1
170	Cystoscopy	Urology	3
161	Prostatectomy	Urology	2
171	Transurethral removal of obstruction from ureter and renal pelvis^	Urology	1 or 2
162	Excision/destruction of lesion/tissue of bladder^	Urology	1 or 2
166	Nephrectomy	Urology	2

* Generally, malignancy and conditions that have the potential to deteriorate quickly to the point that they might become an emergency require an urgency Category of 1.

Not included in national guideline. Victorian recommended category applies.

^ Multiple listings included in national guideline. Victorian recommended category listed.