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| HDSS Bulletin |
| Issue 232: 19 May 2020 |

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# Global update

## Circulars

Access private hospital circulars at: [Private hospital circulars](http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-phicirculars2019-index1) <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/health-phicirculars2019-index1>

Access hospital circulars at: [Hospital circulars](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/news-and-events/hospitalcirculars) <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/news-and-events/hospitalcirculars>

## COVID-19 testing blitz

Since the COVID-19 testing blitz commenced, the HDSS Helpdesk has received several enquiries seeking clarification about what activity should be reported in the Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD) and the AIMS UCC COVID-19 Pandemic form.

Testing of patients, whether asymptomatic or symptomatic should be reported to the VEMD by VEMD reporting health services and on the UCC form for non-VEMD reporting health services.

Testing undertaken by health service staff at off-campus sites such as Community Health Centres and other off-site locations, including Residential Aged Care facilities should be reported to the VEMD by VEMD reporting health services and on the UCC form for non-VEMD reporting health services. Health services should report the off-site activity under their main campus.

Asymptomatic testing of health service staff may be reported to the VEMD or on the UCC form however this is not mandatory.

# Elective Surgery Information System (ESIS)

## New Readiness for Surgery code V: Ready for surgery – delayed due to COVID-19 response

In HDSS Bulletin 228 issued on 8 April, the department advised of a new Readiness for Surgery code V: Ready for surgery – delayed due to COVID-19 response.

This code should be reported when a patient is ready to undergo the awaited procedure, but the health service is unable to perform the procedure due to COVID-19 elective surgery restrictions.

The new Readiness for Surgery code has been added to identify delays due to COVID-19 response.

### Readiness for Surgery

V Ready for surgery – delayed due to COVID-19 response.

This code should be reported when non-urgent surgery (Cat 2 or 3) has been delayed due to government-imposed restrictions on elective surgery as part of the COVID-19 response.

### Start and end dates – new Readiness for Surgery code

The National Cabinet suspended non-urgent elective surgery in Australia effective 11.59pm on 25 March 2020. Non-urgent elective surgery restrictions will be lifted in a phased approach. Therefore, the end date will vary, depending on the type of elective procedure the patient is waiting for.

Phase 1 commenced on 27 April 2020, when the National Cabinet lifted the restrictions on the following elective surgeries:

* Endoscopies
* Cataract and eye procedures
* IVF
* Joint replacements
* Post cancer reconstruction treatments
* Screening programs
  + Procedures for children under 18 years of age

Note: some of the elective procedures listed above are not in scope for ESIS reporting.

### Business rules – Readiness for Surgery

* All non-urgent patients on the Waiting List with a Readiness for Surgery code of R – Ready for surgery as at 11.59pm on 25 March 2020 should be classified as V – Ready for surgery – delayed due to COVID-19 response. The event date for the changed readiness category should be 26 March 2020.
* If a patient’s readiness for surgery changes on or after 26 March 2020, for example the patient’s clinical condition deteriorates or the patient elects to defer surgery, the status change should be recorded.
* If a non-urgent patient becomes ready for surgery during the period that elective surgery restrictions are in place they should be classified as V – Ready for Surgery – delayed due to COVID-19 response.
* If a patient’s clinical urgency changes such that they are reclassified to a Category 1 and they are ready for surgery, the patient’s Readiness for Surgery status should change from V – Ready for Surgery – delayed due to COVID-19 response to R – Ready for Surgery.
* All patients awaiting an elective surgery on the list of procedures announced in Phase 1 should have their Readiness for Surgery code of V – Ready for Surgery – delayed due to COVID-19 response changed back to R – Ready for Surgery, with an effective date of 27 April 2020.
* On 15 May 2020, the National Cabinet announced further increases to the volume of elective surgery procedures and no longer specifies which surgeries or procedures can be performed. As patients with a Readiness for Surgery code of V – Ready for Surgery – delayed due to COVID-19 response are offered a surgery date, the patient’s Readiness for Surgery status should change to R – Ready for Surgery on the date they are offered the surgery. If the patient elects to defer surgery, this status change should be recorded the next day.
* It is planned that as at 11.59 pm on 31 July 2020, all restrictions to elective surgery will finish. Effective 1 August 2020 all remaining patients with a Readiness for Surgery status of V – Ready for Surgery – delayed due to COVID-19 response should be changed back to R – Ready for Surgery.
* Any patient that was previously classified as Not Ready for Surgery because of government-imposed elective surgery restrictions, including those that have been subsequently been admitted for surgery or removed from the waiting list, must be reclassified as V – Ready for Surgery – delayed due to COVID-19 response, with an effective date of 26 March 2020.

If you have not yet implemented the new V code at your health service, a reminder that a patient who is ready for surgery should continue to be reported as R: Ready for surgery until such time the new V code is available for use.

Once health services implement the new Readiness for Surgery V code, the waiting list should be amended retrospectively, as per the business rules outlined above.

If your health service is experiencing difficulty in implementing the new V code, please [email HDSS help desk](mailto:HDSS.helpdesk@dhhs.vic.gov.au) <HDSS.helpdesk@dhhs.vic.gov.au>

Urgent surgery has not been suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Category 1 patients are still expected to be treated within 30 days.

# Contact details

The Data Collections unit manages several Victorian health data collections including:

* Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (VAED)
* Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD)
* Elective Surgery Information System (ESIS)
* Agency Information Management System (AIMS)
* Victorian Integrated Non-Admitted Health Minimum Dataset (VINAH)
  + F1 data collections (technical support)

The HDSS Bulletin is produced at intervals to provide:

* answers to common questions recently directed to the HDSS help desk
* communication regarding the implementation of revisions to data collection specifications, including notification of amendments to specified data collection reference tables
* feedback on selected data quality studies undertaken
  + information on upcoming events

**Website**

[HDSS website](https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/data-reporting/health-data-standards-systems) <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/hospitals-and-health-services/data-reporting/health-data-standards-systems>

**HDSS help desk**

Enquiries regarding data collections and requests for standard reconciliation reports

Telephone (03) 9096 8595

[Email HDSS help desk](mailto:HDSS.helpdesk@dhhs.vic.gov.au) <HDSS.helpdesk@dhhs.vic.gov.au>

**Other Victorian health data requests**

[VAHI Data Request Hub](https://vahi.freshdesk.com/support/home) < https://vahi.freshdesk.com/support/home>

[Email HOSdata](mailto:Hosdata.frontdesk@vahi.vic.gov.au) [Hosdata.frontdesk@vahi.vic.gov.au](mailto:Hosdata.frontdesk@vahi.vic.gov.au)

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