

TARGET

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Shorter stays in emergency departments

95% of patients to be admitted, discharged, or transferred from an emergency department within six hours.

LEAD MINISTER

Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health

LEAD AGENCIES

Ministry of Health, Acting Director-General of Health, Audrey Sonerson

Health New Zealand, Acting Chief Executive, Dr Dale Bramley

TARGET DELIVERY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING DECEMBER 2024

Target	Baseline (September 2023)	Current (September 2024)	Status
95%	68.0%	67.5%	Feasible

PROGRESS TOWARDS TARGET

Proportion of patients to be admitted, discharged, or transferred from an emergency department within six hours



TARGET DELIVERY ACTIONS

The Government is committed to providing timely, high-quality healthcare for all New Zealanders. Results declined since the last quarterly report as expected due to winter illness leading to more people presenting to emergency departments and staying longer in hospital.

Patient demand is increasing. There were 18,000 more patients presenting to emergency departments compared with the same quarter in the prior year. Despite increased demand, results for this quarter are consistent with the same quarter in the prior year.

The Minister of Health is focused on driving action to ensure that all New Zealanders have access to timely high-quality healthcare. Improvements across the whole system of care are needed to reduce the unacceptable wait times at emergency departments.

The Minister of Health recently announced priorities for making immediate improvements to the delivery of public health services. This includes actions to:

- Stabilise Health NZ's governance and accountability arrangements to allow the organisation to get back to basics on delivering for New Zealanders.
- Enable primary care to treat more patients in the community by investing in core general practice services to provide faster and more flexible access, providing better digital access to 24/7 primary care, increasing and retaining doctors in primary care, and increasing primary care nurses.

HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

Health agencies will report on progress each quarter. National and regional results will be published so New Zealanders will be able to see how their local hospital is performing.

Performance information about the health system is available at the Health New Zealand and Ministry of Health websites www.tewhātuora.govt.nz and www.health.govt.nz

For more information on the Government Targets go to www.dPMC.govt.nz

* Where data is sourced from National Collections, previous results may differ depending on the date of extraction as data is revised and updated live