

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, Director-General of Health, Audrey Sonerson

Health New Zealand, Acting Chief Executive, Dr Dale Bramley

TARGET DELIVERY PERFORMANCE - QUARTER ENDING MARCH 2025

Target	Baseline (September 2023)	Current (December 2024)	Status
95%	68.0%	72.1%	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. Improved quarterly results and improved results compared with the same quarter in the prior year.

Patient demand is increasing. In the quarter ending December 31, 2024, there were 12,000 more patients presenting to emergency departments compared with the same quarter in the prior year. Despite the increased demand, 16,000 more patients were admitted, discharged or transferred in under six hours compared with the same quarter in the prior year. Preliminary results for the next quarter indicate further improvement in performance against this Target.

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 has announced priorities for making immediate improvements to the delivery of public health services. This includes the following actions:

- 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, offering digital access to 24/7 primary care, increasing and retaining doctors in primary care, and increasing primary care nurses. **This includes recently announced \$164m funding boost for urgent and after care healthcare.**
- Investing in new and extended urgent care services to ensure people can get the right care, at the right time while reducing pressure on emergency departments. Restored access to urgent care on weekends in Tairāwhiti with the launch of a new service
- Expanded the adult emergency department to increase capacity at Auckland City Hospital, one of the busiest in the country, seeing around 80,000 adult patients per year.

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.