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Victorian Healthcare Association

National Health Performance Authority Report on Hospital Performance: *Time patients spent in emergency departments in 2011-12.*

The National Health Performance Authority (the Authority) today released its inaugural hospital performance report (the report), detailing hospital emergency department (ED) performance against a set of agreed performance indicators. From 2013 the Authority will publish performance reports quarterly on the comparable performance of Australian healthcare organisations.

The report examines the extent to which patients depart public hospital EDs within four hours of arrival, either via discharge or transfer to other wards, in accordance with the National Emergency Access Target (the target). Under the target, states and territories will be expected to ensure that 90% of all patients presenting to public hospital EDs depart within four hours by 2015.

The report covers the period July 2011 to June 2012, and includes six months before the NEAT target commenced in January 2012. The next six-monthly report will cover July 2012 to December 2012.

Victorian regional hospitals performed well, with many major and large hospitals exceeding the 2012 target of 70% of patients discharged from EDs within four hours.

In Melbourne, a number of hospitals exceeded the target, with Williamstown coming top nationally with a rate of 93%.

The VHA has concerns with the manner in which the report communicates hospital data. Insufficient perspective has been provided which allows reporting on hospital performance to be taken out of context. While the results contained within the report and the MyHospitals website are accurate in individual cases, the VHA cautions using raw performance data to make comparisons of performance between different hospitals.

For detailed information about individual hospital performance and to access the full report, visit the Commonwealth Government's MyHospitals website (<http://www.myhospitals.gov.au/>).

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