



Royal Australasian
**College
of Surgeons**

The Western Australian
Audit of Surgical Mortality
(WAASM)

2024 Report Snapshot

5-year review
Jan 2019 - Dec 2023

Snapshot

This snapshot covers cases reported to WAASM from **1 January 2019 to 31 December 2023**.

Note that differences in denominators are due to incomplete information provided in surgical case forms (SCFs) and assessment forms, resulting in missing data.

Participation



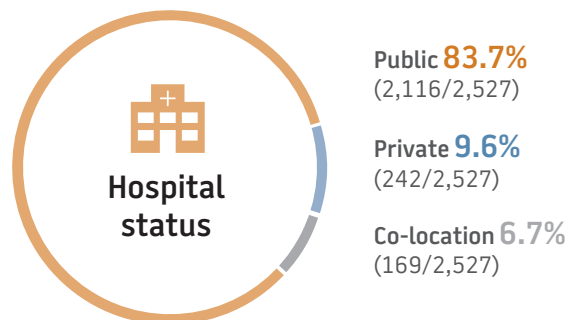
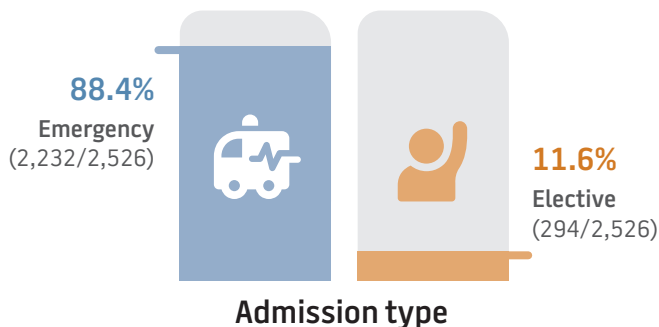
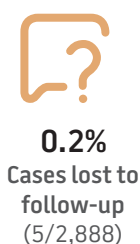
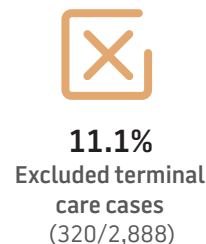
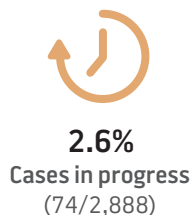
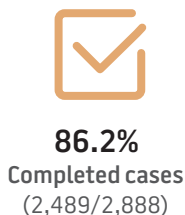
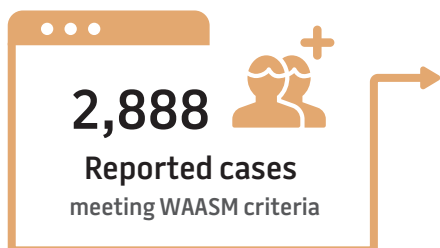
Hospitals

100%

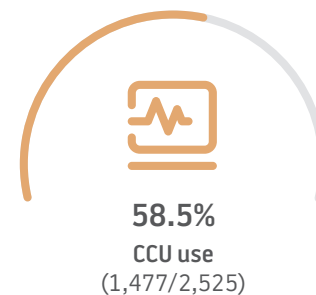
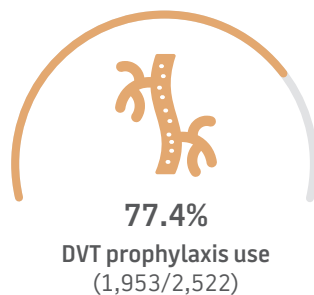
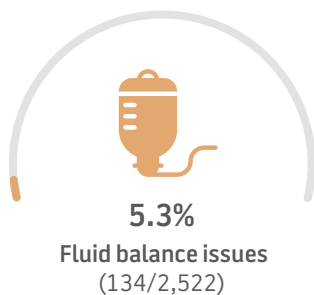
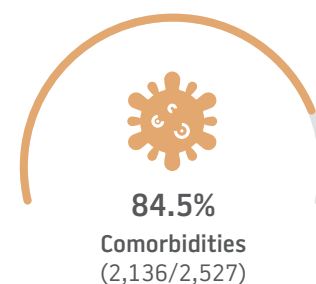
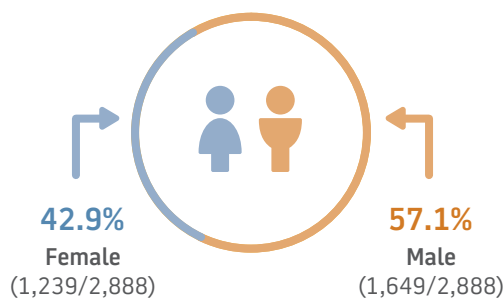
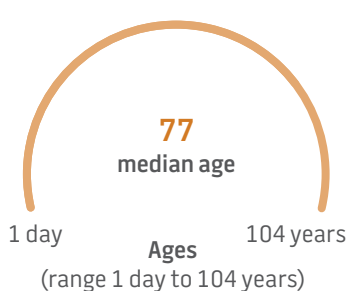


Surgeons

Analysis and audit numbers



Risk profile



Patient transfers



29.9%
Patients transferred
(753/2,521)



11.4%
Delay in transfer
(85/746)



4.3%
Insufficient clinical
information
(32/743)



4.0%
Inappropriate transfer
(30/745)



2.4%
Inappropriate level
of care
(18/742)

Operations



63.5%
Patients had surgery
(1,605/2,527)



93.4%
Consultant surgeons who
made the decision to
operate (1,987/2,127)



67.7%
Consultant surgeons
who performed the
surgery (1,440/2,127)

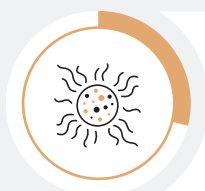


14.3%
Unplanned returns to
theatre
(230/1,604)



4.3%
Operations abandoned
on finding a terminal
situation (90/2,115)

Infection



31.0%
Patients with clinically
significant infection
(783/2,524)



53.8%
Infection acquired
prior to admission
(421/782)



46.2%
Infection acquired
during admission
(361/782)



26.0%
Infection acquired
preoperatively
(94/361)



55.7%
Infection acquired
postoperatively
(201/361)

Peer-review outcomes



14.4%
Cases with one or more
clinical management
issues (358/2,489)



584
Number of clinical
management issues



11.1%
Adverse events
(65/584)



46.2%
Adverse events that
caused death
(30/65)



30.0%
Definitely preventable
adverse events that
caused death (9/30)



Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

Western Australian Audit of Surgical Mortality

Royal Australasian College of Surgeons

ACN 004 167 766 | NZCN 6235298

© RACS 2024