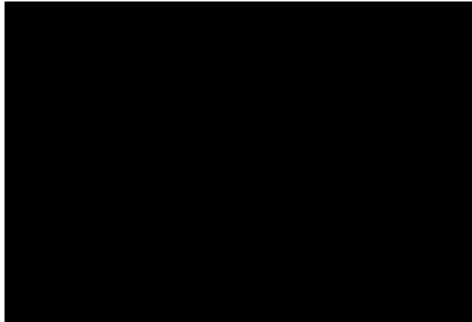


February 4, 2021



RE: Access to Information Request – HE31-21G

Thank you for your Access to Information Requests received in this office on June 11, 2020, pursuant to *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the Act) requesting:

***“Please provide documentation on the number of cancelled or postponed surgeries, health procedures and consultations due to COVID-19. Please be sure to provide any other documentation related to the impact on health care waiting lists due to COVID-19 (and postpones/cancelled health procedures, surgeries, consultations, etc.)”***

Please find attached responsive records totaling 13 pages. Also note that portions of the records provided have been withheld from release under the following subsections of the Act: 17(1)(a) and 17(1)(b)(i).

Full descriptions of the sections are available at:

<http://www.publications.gov.sk.ca/freelaw/documents/English/Statutes/Statutes/F22-01.pdf>

Should you be dissatisfied with the response you receive or the manner in which your request is handled, as per section 49 of the Act you may, within one year of being given written notice or from the date deemed to be the last day of notice, apply for a formal process review by submitting a written request to:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner  
503-1801 Hamilton Street  
REGINA SK S4P 4B4

...2

Zak Vescera  
Page 2  
Jan. 18, 2020

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If you wish to contact us, please direct your correspondence to:  
[victoria.young@health.gov.sk.ca](mailto:victoria.young@health.gov.sk.ca).

Please cite the assigned Ministry of Health identifier number when making an enquiry.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lisa Dietrich".

Lisa Dietrich  
Chief Privacy Officer

Enclosure

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## 7.02 SURGICAL WAIT TIMES

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### **KEY MESSAGES:**

- The Government of Saskatchewan is committed to ensuring the safety of all citizens during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- For the protection of patients and staff and to preserve necessary surge capacity, all non-urgent elective surgeries were cancelled effective March 23. Emergency surgeries, urgent cancer surgeries and most other urgent surgeries continued to be performed.
- Once health system capacity was adequately prepared for COVID-19, a phased approach to resumption of elective surgeries began.
- May 19: most hospitals began to add some high-priority elective surgeries (as determined by surgeons), and private surgical centres opened.
  - Surgical volumes reached almost 40 per cent of pre-COVID numbers by the end of Phase 1 of service resumption.
- June 16: Phase 2 of service resumption. Hospitals adding less urgent elective surgeries to their case mix.
  - Volumes are expected to increase to 65-70 per cent of pre-COVID numbers by the end of Phase 2.
- Measures to prevent transmission of COVID-19 and capacity of the system will guide continued progression of surgical services.
- The cancellation of elective surgeries has resulted in:
  - an increase in the total number of patients waiting;
  - an increase in patients waiting over three and six months for their procedures; and
  - approximately 10,440 non-emergency surgeries delayed between March 22 and May 25.
- An investment of \$20M was announced in the 2020-21 budget to help address the number of patients waiting for surgery.
- The Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative (2010-11 to 2014-15) succeeded in large part because of the dedicated efforts of health system staff and physicians. A similar system-wide commitment to appropriateness and continuous improvement will help Saskatchewan to recover past gains in surgical wait times.

### **BACKGROUND:**

#### ***Impact of COVID-19***

- Beginning March 23, 2020, all non-urgent elective surgeries were cancelled due to Covid-19 service reduction. Emergency surgeries and surgeries in the 3 week urgent wait time category (cancer and non-cancer surgeries) continued to be performed. A reduction in emergency surgeries has been observed, which could be a combination of fewer accidents, more conservative management of patients, and a reluctance of patients to seek care.

- For the period March 22 to May 23, 2020, there were 4,874 surgeries performed including 2,380 emergency surgeries. For the period March 24 to May 25, 2019, there were 15,851 surgeries performed including 2,918 emergencies.
- For the period March 22 – May 23, 2020, it is estimated that 10,440 elective (i.e. non-emergency) surgeries were not performed due to covid-19 related service reductions. This estimate is based on the number of elective (non-emergency) surgeries performed between March 24 to May 25, 2019 minus the number of elective surgeries performed between March 22 and May 16, 2020.

Surgeon priority	March 24 to May 25, 2019	March 22 to May 23, 2020	Before - After
Emergency	2,918	2,380	538
3 week cancer	676	631	45
3 week	943	786	157
6 week cancer	217	106	111
6 week	1,809	284	1,525
3 month cancer	30	22	8
3 month	8,876	400	8,476
unknown	382	265	117
Total	15,851	4,874	10,977

\*Note the 10,977 total surgeries minus the 538 emergency surgeries yields 10,439 elective surgeries estimated to be delayed due to COVID-19.

### Resuming Surgical Services

- The Saskatchewan Health Authority's service resumption plan was intended to bring surgical services up to approximately 40 per cent of previous surgical volumes in phase one (starting May 19, 2020). The table below shows that surgeries began to resume gradually in Week 1 (May 17-23) and reached almost 35 per cent of previous volumes. Surgical data for subsequent weeks has not been finalized, but initial numbers indicate that over all surgical volumes will reach the 40 per cent target, with some regional variation.

#### Actual increase in surgical volumes

#### Week 1 of Surgical Restart (May 17 to 23, 2020)

Facility location	Average weekly surgical volume			Phase 1 % of pre-COVID-19 volume
	Pre-COVID-19	COVID-19 shut down	Phase 1	
Saskatoon hospitals	727	294	275	37.8
Saskatoon private clinic(s)	175	0	44	25.1
Regina hospitals	472	190	232	49.2
Regina private clinic(s)	131	0	35	26.8
Other hospitals	526	111	119	22.6
Total	2,030	596	705	34.7

#### Notes:

The data source is the 07-Jun-2020 refresh of the Saskatchewan Surgical Patient Registry data mart.

The pre-COVID-19 period is March 24 to May 18, 2019 .

The COVID-19 shut down period is March 22 to May 16, 2020 .

Phase 1 of the surgical restart includes data for May 17 to May 23, 2020 .

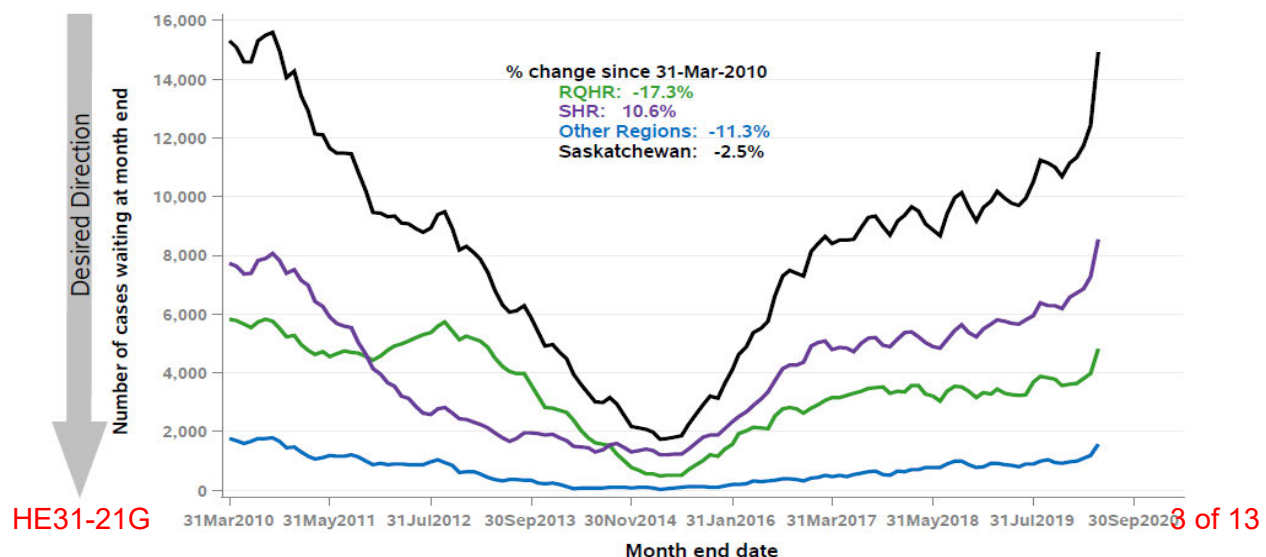
- In Phase 1 of service resumption, surgical facilities already performing emergency and urgent surgeries began to add high priority elective procedures. Surgeries that increased in Week 1 include high-priority cataract surgery, other eye and ear interventions, gall bladder and spine procedures.
- In Regina and Saskatoon, private surgical centres also began to resume elective surgeries in Phase 1. The SHA will make every effort to reach pre-COVID volumes at private centres prior to the end of Phase 4 of the service resumption plan (date to be determined). Less complex day surgeries and those with low resource requirements will be prioritized at private clinics
- On June 10 the SHA announced that Phase 2 of health service resumption will begin on June 16. In this phase, surgical facilities will continue to add more elective surgeries including those that are less urgent (as determined by surgeons). Volumes of surgeries are expected to increase gradually to 65-70 per cent of pre-COVID numbers by the end of Phase 2.
- The service resumption plan places a priority on maintaining flexibility and reserve capacity of providers and facilities in order to respond to emergency needs in the case of a COVID-19 surge.
- New policies such as physical distancing, COVID screening protocols, infection prevention and control (IPC) guidelines and other changes that impact flow for patients and staff will also delay resumption of full surgical capacity for the immediate future.
- Surgical volumes also depend on factors such as the availability of physicians, pre-operative services, rehabilitation and follow up, access to which is also reduced by COVID-related safety protocols.

### ***Surgical performance 2019-20***

- Surgical data at 2019-20 year end shows a slight effect of COVID-19 related service disruption on waits for non-urgent elective surgeries. In 2019-20 a total of 87,595 surgeries were performed, a decrease of 1,810 from 89,405 in 2018-19. This decrease may be attributed in part to cancellation of elective surgeries in the last week of the fiscal year (March 23 to 31) due to COVID-19.
- Surgical data for the beginning of 2020-21 (to April 30 2020) shows a steep increase in both wait times (especially 3 and 6 month categories) and total numbers of patients waiting.

**Number of surgical cases waiting at month end that had already waited > 3 months**

	31MAR2010	30APR2010	30APR2011	30APR2012	30APR2013	30APR2014	30APR2015	30APR2016	30APR2017	30APR2018	30APR2019	30APR2020
Regina Qu'Appelle	5,819	5,777	4,718	5,077	4,496	2,024	509	2,137	3,157	3,268	3,246	4,811
Saskatoon Health Region	7,735	7,630	6,266	3,126	1,960	1,477	1,197	2,898	4,855	5,039	5,676	8,553
Other 8 Regions	1,757	1,689	1,117	879	353	80	59	322	502	773	838	1,558
Saskatchewan	15,311	15,096	12,101	9,082	6,809	3,581	1,765	5,357	8,514	9,080	9,760	14,922



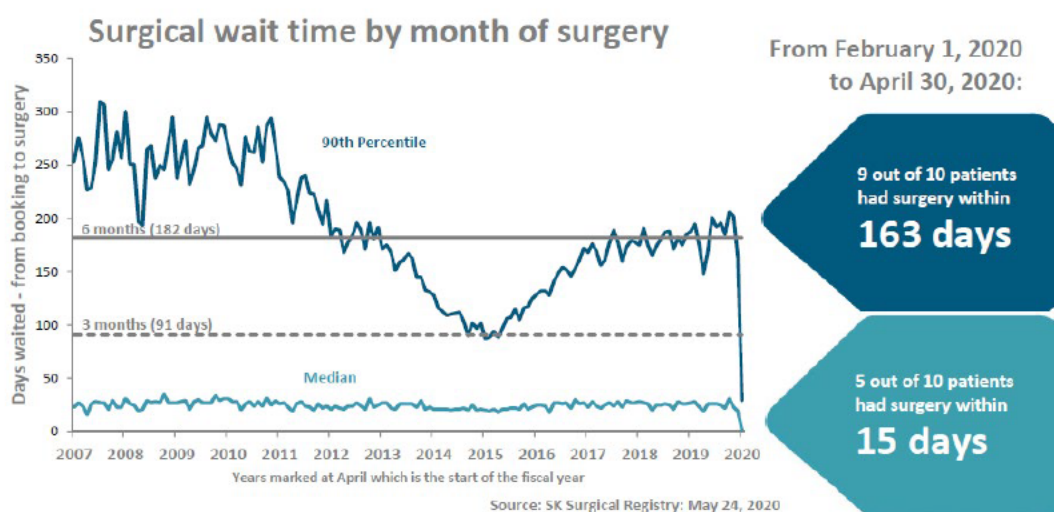
- The number and percentages of long waiters (patients waiting longer than 12 months or 18 months) continues to be less in 2020 than it was in 2007, prior to the Sask Surgical Initiative. As the table shows, as of April 30 2020 there were 70 per cent fewer patients waiting longer than 18 months and 55 per cent fewer patients waiting longer than 12 months compared to numbers waiting in 2007.

Number that had already waited greater than X months	30 NOV 2007	31 MARCH 2010	30 APRIL 2020	30 NOV 2007 to 30 APRIL 2020	
				# Change	% Change
>18 months	2,666	1,603	809	-1,857	-70%
>12 months	5,131	4,006	2,314	-2,817	-55%
>6 months	10,638	9,877	7,974	-2,664	-25%
>3 months	15,362	15,311	14,922	-440	-3%
All Patients Waiting	26,693	27,179	26,641	-52	0%

- However, in recent years numbers of patients waiting have increased in all categories. As of April 30, 2020 there were 26,641 Saskatchewan people waiting for surgery. The number of patients waiting greater than three months had grown to 14,922 or approximately 53% over the previous year.

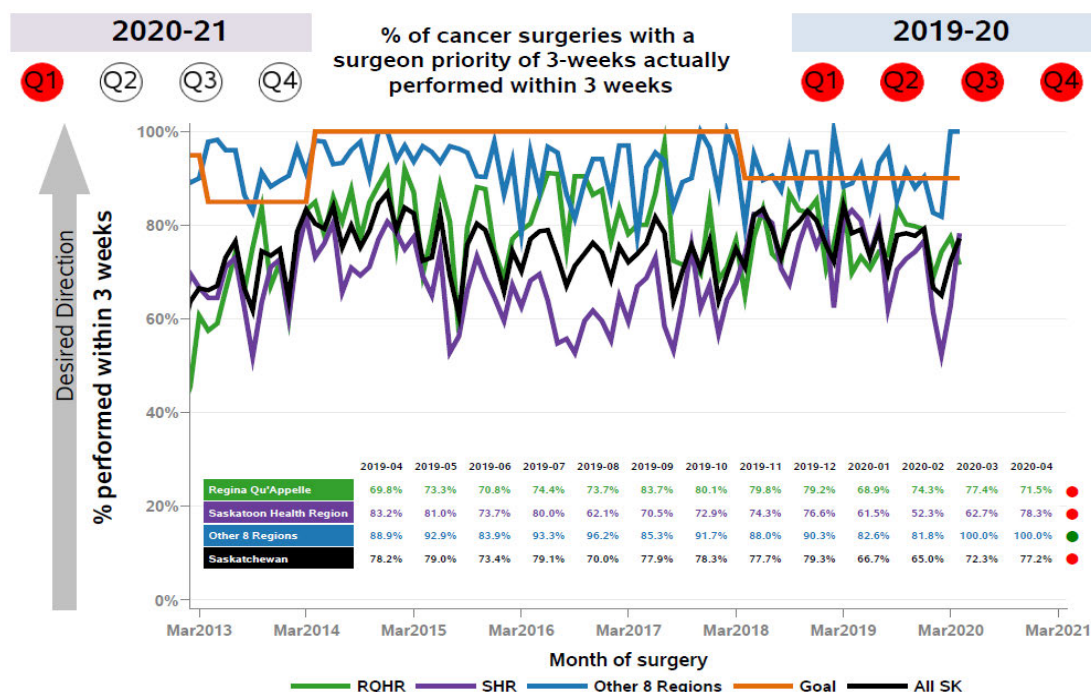
Number waiting that had already waited greater than X months					
Month End Date	Total Waiting	> 3 mth	> 6 mth	> 12 mth	> 18 mth
30NOV2007	26,693	15,362	10,638	5,131	2,666
31MAR2010	27,179	15,311	9,877	4,006	1,603
30APR2017	21,855	8,514	3,976	927	315
30APR2018	22,169	9,080	4,456	1,123	347
30APR2019	23,059	9,760	5,239	1,377	589
30APR2020	26,641	14,922	7,974	2,314	809

- The surgical wait time target is for 90 per cent of elective surgeries to be performed within six months or 180 days of their booking date. In the last quarter of 2019-20 (January to March 31 2020) 90% of patients had their surgery within 194 days. From February 1 to April 30 2020 90% of patients had their surgery within 163 days. This is at least partly due to the COVID-19 surgical disruption, during which time only emergency and urgent surgeries were performed.



90th Percentile: Maximum number of days waited for 90% of patients who had surgery in the given month  
 Median: Maximum number of days waited for 50% of patients who had surgery in the given month

- Data shows that wait times for cancer surgeries continue to fall short of the target of 90% of cases completed within three weeks. Both Regina and Saskatoon have incorporated dedicated plans to make improvements and the SHA continues to monitor pressures in all former regions.



- Since the launch of private surgical centres in April 2010 through to April 30, 98,400 surgeries have been performed in third party facilities in Regina and Saskatoon. Volume/utilization of third party surgical capacity has remained stable for the past 5 years, but the COVID-related surgical slowdown will impact volumes starting in 2020-21.

Month of Surgery	Surgical Centres Inc. Regina	Prairie View Saskatoon	Total
2015-16	4,622	6,530	11,152
2016-17	4,998	7,170	12,168
2017-18	5,382	7,685	13,067
2018-19	5,749	7,288	13,037
2019-20	5,619	7,598	13,217
2020-21 April	1	0	1

- Saskatchewan has continued to decline in relation to several pan-Canadian benchmarks for surgical quality. In 2019 more patients waited more than six months for hip replacement in Saskatchewan than in any other province. Despite performing more surgeries, many provinces have seen increases in wait times for joint replacement and cataract surgery since 2017.

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Hip replacement within 182 days	93%	100%	80%	76%	66%	47%
Knee Replacement within 182 days	89%	99%	53%	61%	56%	39%
Hip Fracture within 48 hrs	79%	80%	79%	82%	79%	83%
Cataract within 112 days	88%	96%	79%	77%	63%	61%

**Funding**

- During the five years of the Surgical Initiative (2010-11 to 2014-15) over \$230.8M incremental funding was provided to deliver sooner, safer, and smarter surgical care in the province.
- In November 2019, the government announced a new commitment to lowering surgical wait times for Saskatchewan patients. A one-time investment of \$9.8M was provided to fund approximately 1,800 additional surgeries by the end of March 2020 – for a target volume of 90,707 total surgeries.
- At fiscal year end, 96% of the surgical volume target was achieved with 87,595 surgeries performed – falling short of the target by 3,112 procedures. It is estimated about 1,500 surgeries were canceled due to COVID restrictions from March 23-31, 2020. It is estimated the SHA would have been about 1,600 surgeries below target or about 2%.
- Regina achieved 102% of target, Saskatoon achieved 96% of target and the remaining eight smaller former regions achieved 90% of their target.
- A further \$20M increase in base funding to the surgical program was announced in the 2020-21 budget. These funds would support approximately 3,700 additional surgeries per year (compared to 2018-19 base volumes). However, COVID-related restrictions on surgical capacity may prevent the realization of this volume increase in 2020-21.
- During the last 11 years (2010-11 to 2020-21) the cumulative investment for the Initiative and surgical services is approximately \$664M.

**ANALYSIS:**

- The disruption in surgical service as a result of COVID-19, and corresponding backlog of delayed surgeries, is expected to cause significant increases in wait lists and wait times for elective surgery in the short to medium term.
- If surgical services returned to peak operating capacity immediately, with full use of additional capacity funded in 2020-21, it would take an estimated 23 months to catch up to pre-COVID surgical wait time numbers.

17(1)(a) 17(1)(b)(i)

<b>DATE</b>	June 11, 2020
<b>BRANCH</b>	AESB
<b>CONTACT</b>	Ingrid Kirby/Terry Blackmore
<b>CONTACT PHONE NUMBER</b>	8-2655
<b>PREPARED BY</b>	Lori Latta
Non Responsive - File Path	

### Access to Information request HE31-21G

**Request:** Please provide documentation on the number of cancelled or postponed surgeries, health procedures and consultations due to COVID-19 . Please be sure to provide any other documentation related to the impact on health care waiting lists due to COVID-19 (and postpones/cancelled health procedures, surgeries, consultations, etc.).

**Response:** Beginning at the end of March 2020, many surgeries and medical imaging exams were postponed (put on hold) due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Emergency and urgent procedures have continued to be performed throughout the pandemic. The following tables estimate the number of postponements for surgery, MRI visits, and CT visits. The estimate is done by comparing volumes from the same months in 2019. The difference between the 2019 and 2020 volumes gives us an estimate of postponements including the procedures that have not even been booked yet due to a reduction in consultations with family physicians and specialists. These numbers do not include postponements for other procedures (such as endoscopies) or medical imaging modalities (such as ultrasounds and bone mineral density tests).

#### Estimate of the number of surgeries postponed due to COVID-19: March 1 to May 31, 2020

Month	2019	2020	Estimated postponements
March	7,947	5,862	2,085
April	7,451	2,149	5,302
May	8,266	2,858	5,408
<b>Total</b>	<b>23,664</b>	<b>10,869</b>	<b>12,795</b>

**Data source:** The 28-Jun-2020 refresh of the Saskatchewan surgical registry data mart

**Report source:** SkSI-Surgery-Performed-Counts-by-Proc-Group-2020-06-28-HC.xlsx

#### Estimate of the number of CT visits (patients) postponed due to COVID-19: March 1 to May 31, 2020

Month	2019	2020	Estimated postponements
March	10,050	8,681	1,369
April	9,729	6,600	3,129
May	10,698	7,938	2,760
<b>Total</b>	<b>30,477</b>	<b>23,219</b>	<b>7,258</b>

#### Estimate of the number of MRI visits (patients) postponed due to COVID-19: March 1 to May 31, 2020

Month	2019	2020	Estimated postponements
March	2,887	2,641	246
April	2,921	1,120	1,801
May	3,035	1,926	1,109
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,843</b>	<b>5,687</b>	<b>3,156</b>

**Data source:** The 21-Jun-2020 refresh of the Radiology Information System data mart

**Report source:** RIS-Stats-Monthly-21Jun2020-AZ.xlsx

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## SASKATCHEWAN SURGICAL SERVICES WAIT TIME UPDATE

(WITH DATA TO APRIL 30, 2020)

WEBSITE UPDATE: JUNE 11

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### **ISSUE:**

- Surgical wait time data on saskurgery.ca is currently updated to June 30, 2019. Data to April 30, 2020 is currently available, so a refresh of Saskurgery.ca is recommended.
- In response to the COVID-19 public health emergency, the Saskatchewan Health Authority cancelled all non-urgent elective surgeries as of March 23, 2020. As of May 19, 2020, some high priority elective surgeries were beginning to resume.
- The cancellation of elective surgeries has resulted in a sharp increase in the total number of patients waiting, as well as patients waiting over three and six months for their procedures.
- Data shows that the number of patients waiting greater than three months for elective surgery on April 30, 2020 has increased by approximately 53% in comparison to the number waiting on April 30, 2019.

### **KEY SERVICE HIGHLIGHTS:**

- Recent data (February 1 to April 30, 2020) indicates that 82.4% of patients received surgery or were offered a surgery date within three months of booking and 92% received surgery or were offered a surgery date within six months.
  - The Saskatchewan Surgical Initiative resulted in tremendous improvements in providing sooner, safer and smarter surgical care. At the end of the Surgical Initiative on March 31, 2015, there were 1,734 patients waiting greater than three months, compared to 15,361 patients waiting more than three months in November 2007, an 89% reduction.
  - In the last five years, from April 30 2016 to April 30 2020, the number of patients waiting greater than three months has increased from 5,357 to 14,922, an increase of 9,545 patients. Despite the increase, this still represents a reduction in patients waiting for surgery when compared to 2007 – with 44 (or 3%) fewer patients waiting greater than three months and 2,664 fewer patients (or 25%) waiting greater than six months.
- In November 2019, the government announced a commitment to lowering surgical wait times for Saskatchewan patients. The one time investment of \$9.8M was targeted at approximately 1,800 additional surgeries and 30 additional Trans Aortic Valve Implant (TAVI) procedures by the end of March 2020.
- The commitment to lowering surgical wait times was sustained with a further \$20M increase in base funding to the surgical program announced in the 2020-21 expenditure statement. Eventually these funds will support approximately 3,700 additional surgeries per year (compared to 2018-19 base volumes). However, COVID-related restrictions on surgical capacity will prevent the realization of this volume increase in 2020-21.
- Included in Saskatchewan's Growth Plan is the goal to reduce surgical wait times to a three month target by 2030.

**BACKGROUND:**

- Data has been updated to April 30, 2020 with the May 24, 2020 refresh of the surgical patient registry data mart.
- During the five years of the Surgical Initiative (2010-11 to 2014-15) over \$230.8M incremental funding was spent to provide sooner, safer, and smarter surgical care in the province.
- During the last 11 years (2010-11 to 2020-21) the cumulative investment for the Initiative and surgical services is approximately \$664M.
- In 2019-20 a total of 87,595 surgeries were performed, a decrease of 1,810 from 89,405 in 2018-19. This decrease may be partially attributed to the cancellation of elective surgeries in the last week of the fiscal year (March 23 to 31) due to COVID-19.
- The full impact of the ongoing COVID-related slowdown on surgical volumes and wait times for 2020-21 is not yet known. Based on historical data comparison, it is estimated that 10,440 surgeries have been delayed in Saskatchewan between March 22 and May 25, 2020.
- Beginning May 19, 2020 the SHA began a phased approach to resume elective surgeries, beginning with highest priority categories (as determined by surgeons). The goal is to resume up to 65-70% of normal activity in phase 2 (starting June 16) assuming local conditions allow.
- If surgical services returned to peak operating capacity immediately, with full use of additional capacity funded in the 2020-21 budget, it would take an estimated 23 months just to deal with the backlog and catch up to pre-COVID surgical wait time volumes. Since full surgical capacity is unlikely to return until the COVID-19 emergency has resolved, it could take well over two years to get back to pre-COVID surgical wait time numbers.
- Planning to operationalize a return to full surgical capacity is on-going and involves both medical experts and health system leadership.
- Surgical wait time targets continue to be a maximum six-month wait (at the 90th percentile) for elective surgeries in all surgical centres in the province, and 90% of urgent cancer surgeries performed within three weeks from date of booking. Six months for elective surgeries is a step target toward a three-month wait time goal. Progress toward wait time targets will be impacted in the coming year by pressures to accommodate the backlog of patients affected by the slowdown.

**ANALYSIS:**

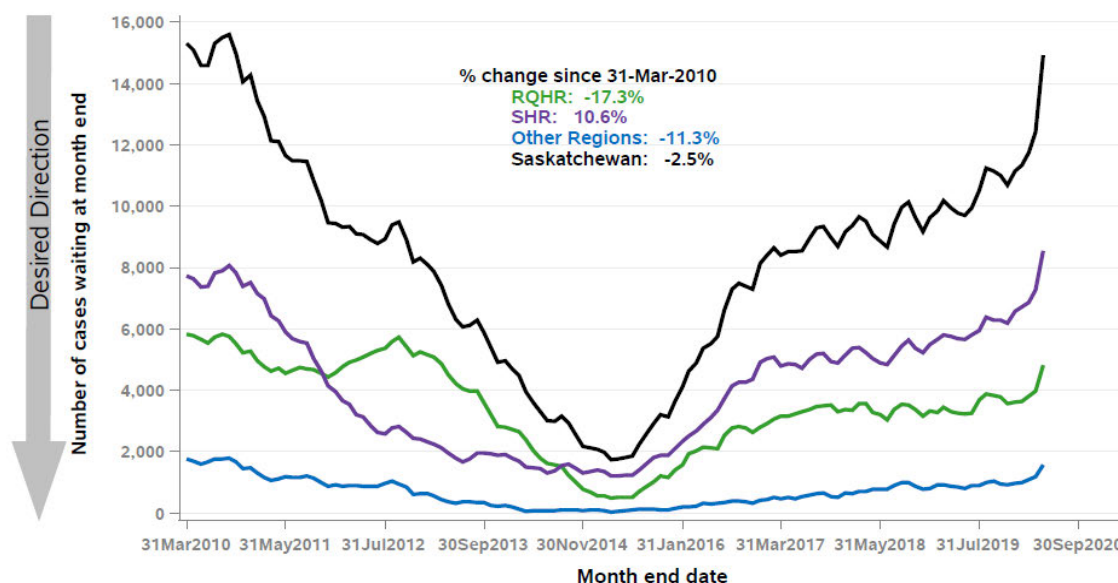
- As outlined in the following table, the total number of patients waiting longer than three months for surgery on April 30, 2020 is 3% less than the number of people waiting on November 30, 2007. Also, the proportion of long waiters (people waiting more than 12 months) continues to show a significant and sustained decline since 2007 with 70% fewer people waiting more than 18 months and 55% fewer people waiting more than 12 months.

Number that had already waited greater than X months	30 NOV 2007	31 MARCH 2010	30 APRIL 2020	30 NOV 2007 to 30 APRIL 2020		% of waitlist NOV 2007	% of waitlist APRIL 2020
				# Change	% Change		
>18 months	2,666	1,603	809	-1,857	-70%	10%	3%
>12 months	5,131	4,006	2,314	-2,817	-55%	19%	9%
>6 months	10,638	9,877	7,974	-2,664	-25%	40%	30%
>3 months	15,362	15,311	14,922	-440	-3%	58%	56%
All Patients Waiting	26,693	27,179	26,641	-52	0%		

- From April 30, 2019 to April 30, 2020, the number of patients waiting greater than three months has grown by approximately 53% or 5,162 patients.
- At the last Surgical Services Wait Time Update in August 2019 there were 9,938 patients waiting more than three months for surgery based on first quarter data (at June 30 2019). By the end of Q2 (September 30 2019) the number of patients waiting had grown by 1,198 to 11,136 people, which remained steady until the end of the Q3. However, Q4 saw a steeper increase in the number of patients waiting. By fiscal year end (March 31 2020) the number of patients waiting greater than three months had grown to 12,416 or approximately 25% over the previous year. In the month of April 2020 all non-urgent elective surgeries were cancelled, and another 2,506 patients joined the list of people waiting longer than three months.
- The number of patients waiting longer than three months has increased gradually since the fall of 2016. An uptick in the wait list due to COVID-19 restrictions starts between March 22 and March 29 2020.

### Number of surgical cases waiting at month end that had already waited > 3 months

	31MAR2010	30APR2010	30APR2011	30APR2012	30APR2013	30APR2014	30APR2015	30APR2016	30APR2017	30APR2018	30APR2019	30APR2020
Regina Qu'Appelle	5,819	5,777	4,718	5,077	4,496	2,024	509	2,137	3,157	3,268	3,246	4,811
Saskatoon Health Region	7,735	7,630	6,266	3,126	1,960	1,477	1,197	2,898	4,855	5,039	5,676	8,553
Other 8 Regions	1,757	1,689	1,117	879	353	80	59	322	502	773	838	1,558
Saskatchewan	15,311	15,096	12,101	9,082	6,809	3,581	1,765	5,357	8,514	9,080	9,760	14,922



Date prepared: 27MAY2020. Report Contact: Sheena McRae, MoH  
 Source: 24MAY2020 refresh of the surgical registry. Refresh cycle: Monthly

- The surgical wait time target is for 90% of elective surgeries to be performed within six months or 180 days of their booking date. In the last quarter of the 2019-20 fiscal year (January 1 to March 31 2020) 90% of patients had their surgeries within 194 days. From February 1 to April 30 2020 90% of patients had their surgery within 163 days. **Note:** This is at least partly due to the COVID-19 surgical disruption, during which time only emergency and urgent surgeries were performed.

### 90<sup>th</sup> Percentile wait time for surgeries performed between February 1 2020 and April 30 2020

Health region of service	Volume performed	Median wait time in days	90th percentile wait time in days
01 Sun Country	138	13	41
02 Five Hills	530	7	56
03 Cypress	294	23	152
04 Regina Qu'Appelle	4,484	13	189
05 Sunrise	288	15	95
06 Saskatoon	6,770	19	184
07 Heartland	19	0	114
08 Kelsey Trail	152	28	124
09 Prince Albert Parkland	872	14	139
10 Prairie North	986	21	120
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,657</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>163</b>

Based on 24MAY2020 SK surgical patient registry data.

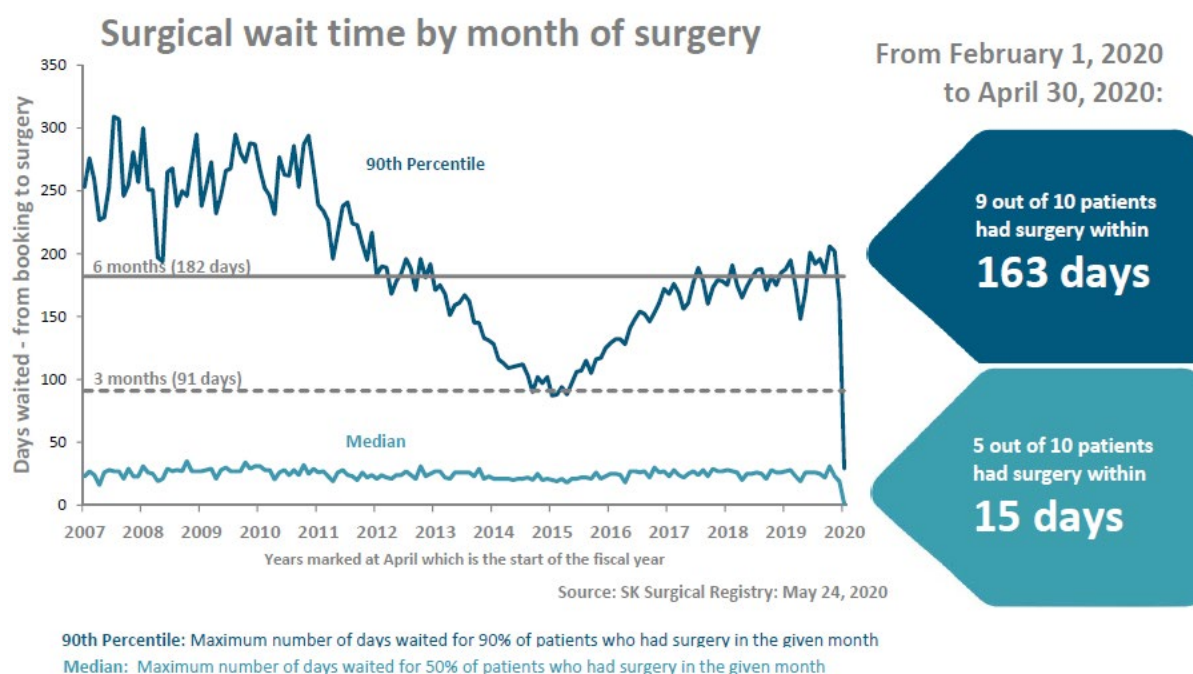
Patient unavailable days are subtracted from the wait times.

Adjustments have been made to the counts of patients waiting and the wait times for second eye cataract surgery.

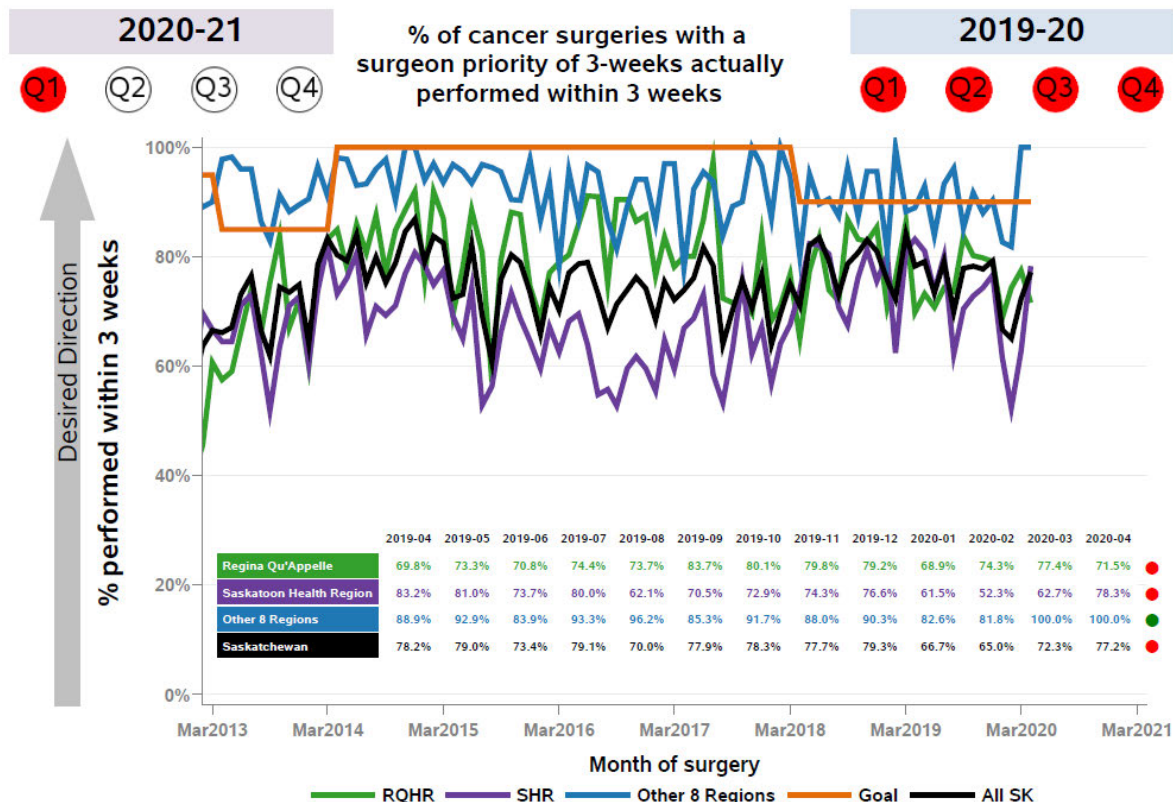
The median wait time is the number of days by which half of the people had surgery.

The 90th percentile wait time is the number of days by which 90% of the people had surgery.

- The following infographic outlines the above median and 90<sup>th</sup> percentile wait times:



- Data shows that wait times for cancer surgeries continue to be below the target of 90% of cases completed within three weeks. Both Regina and Saskatoon have incorporated dedicated plans within this area to make improvements and the SHA continues to monitor pressures in all former regions.



Date prepared: 27MAY2020. Report Contact: Sheena McRae, MoH  
Source: 24MAY2020 refresh of the surgical registry. Refresh cycle: Monthly



- Overall demand for elective surgery bookings in 2019-20 compared to 2018-19 shows almost 2% less bookings for elective surgery in 2019-20 and 3.6% more emergency surgeries.
- However, surgical bookings in the month of April 2020 are substantially less than bookings in April 2019, with 68% less bookings for elective surgery and 18% less bookings for emergency surgery.
- While urgent and emergency surgeries have continued during the COVID-19 service reduction, a reduction in emergency surgeries in early fiscal 2020-21 may be the result of fewer accidents, more conservative management of patients, and a reluctance of patients to seek care.

**DATE**  
**BRANCH**  
**CONTACT**  
**CONTACT PHONE NUMBER**  
**PREPARED BY**  
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June 10, 2020  
AESB  
I. Kirby/T. Blackmore  
798-2655  
L. Latta