

January 29, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Re: Halton Healthcare FOI Request #1-2021 - Decision

Dear Mr. Haubrich

We are writing in response to your two access requests under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, which we received on January 4, 2021 together with the \$5.00 application fee.

Your request was as follows:

- 1. Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for a surgical procedure in 2019-20. Please break the data out by procedure and case info — date the patient was referred to a specialist, decision date, date for the procedure and date of cancellation. Please also note the government's target time for providing the procedure in question. (Note: many hospitals/health regions were able to identify such cases as they track the reason for cancelled operations).*
- 2. Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for either a diagnostic scan or a consultation with a specialist in 2019-20. Please break the data out by procedure and case info — date the patient went on the waiting list, date for the meeting with the specialist or date for diagnostic scan (if scheduled), and date of the cancellation. Please also note the government's target time for providing the procedure in question. (Note: many hospitals/health regions were able to identify such cases as they track the reason for cancelled operations)*

We are pleased to provide **access** to the responsive records we have in our custody and control regarding the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for:

- (a) A surgical procedure between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020; and
- (b) Either a diagnostic scan or a consultation with a specialist between April 1, 2019 and March 31, 2020

Attached to this email please find the records as two PDF documents.

Please refer to the Health Quality Ontario website to obtain the relevant target wait times in respect of your inquiry. You can find the information at the following link:

https://www.hqontario.ca/System-Performance/utm_medium/Referral?utm_source=Ontario.ca&utm_campaign=WT%20Referral.

In reviewing this information as it applies to wait times for a surgical procedure, we wish to caution you with respect to the quality of the data available. The quality of the data is subject to many constraints, including the following:

- Certain adjustments to the reported wait times may not be made consistently or at all. For example, where the length of time a patient waits for a surgical procedure increases due to a patient initiated delay, that period of delay should be excluded from the reported wait time. However, this may not be done consistently in all cases;
- Wait time reporting for surgical procedures is completed by surgeons' clinical offices and the reporting process can vary from office to office; and
- We may only become aware of a patient having died while on a waitlist when the calling to book the actual appointment.

With respect to wait times for specialist consultations, we caution that this is currently a manual process, there are no standardized reporting practices applicable to this data point and it may, therefore, be prone to underreporting.

You may request that this decision be reviewed by the Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario/IPC. Please note you have 30 days from receipt of this letter to request this review. The Commissioner can be reached at:

Registrar-Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario
1400 – 2 Bloor Street East
Toronto, ON M4W 1A8
1-800-787-0073

Should you decide to appeal this decision, please provide the Commissioner's office with:

- A copy of this decision letter
- A copy of your original access request; and
- The reason for your appeal.

Appeals to the Commissioner must be accompanied by the appropriate fee. If your access request is for you personally, the appeal fee is \$10.00. The appeal fee for all other

access requests is \$25.00. Please include the fee with your letter of appeal. Appeal fees should be in the form of a cheque or money order, payable to the Minister of Finance.

Yours truly

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'AA' with a stylized flourish.

Angie Armstrong
Freedom of Information/Privacy Coordinator
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Halton Healthcare's death while waiting for DI and Specialist appointment

| | | 2019/20 |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| DI | CT | 18 |
| | MRI | 6 |
| | Pulmonary function test | 12 |
| | Ultrasound | 27 |
| | VIDEO FLUOROSCOPY | 2 |
| | DI Subtotal | 65 |
| Waiting for Specialist Consult | | 20 |

Above table represent cases with a scheduled appointment, and having appointment cancelled with cancellation reason of "Patient Expired"

Data Source: HHS Scheduling System

Breakdown by procedure

| | | 2019/20 | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| DI | CT | CT CHEST - NO CONTRAST | 10 |
| | | CT HEAD NO CONTRAST | 2 |
| | | CT ABDO/PELVIS/CHEST/NECK CONT | 1 |
| | | CT ABDOMEN PELVIS CONTRAST | 1 |
| | | CT ANGIO CAROTID AND COW | 1 |
| | | CT CHEST CONTRAST | 1 |
| | | CT CHEST/ABDO/PELVIS CONTRAST | 1 |
| | | CT HEAD - NO CONTRAST | 1 |
| | MRI | MRI - ABDOMEN - GADO | 2 |
| | | MRI - ABDOMEN-LTD - NO GAD | 1 |
| | | MRI - HEAD 15 MINUTE | 1 |
| | | MRI - HEAD WITH GAD | 1 |
| | | MRI - L SPINE | 1 |
| | Pulmonary function | PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST | 12 |
| | Ultrasound | US ABDOMEN | 7 |
| | | US KIDNEYS AND BLADDER | 6 |
| | | ULTRASOUND ABDOMEN | 5 |
| | | US ABDOMINAL DOPPLER | 1 |
| | | US ARMS - ARTERIAL CLINIC PT | 1 |
| | | US ARMS - VENOUS CLINIC PT | 1 |
| | | US ARTERIAL DOPPLER BOTH LEGS | 1 |
| | | US GROIN | 1 |
| | | US KIDNEY AND BLADDER | 1 |
| | | US PELVIS | 1 |
| | | US VENOUS DOPPLER BOTH LEGS | 1 |
| | | US VENOUS DOPPLER RIGHT LEG | 1 |
| | | VIDEO FLUOROSCOPY | MDH VIDEOFLUOROSCOPIC SWALLOW |
| VIDEO FLUOROSCOPY WITH SPEECH | 1 | | |
| DI subtotal | | 65 | |
| Waiting for specialist consult | Consult | CHEST PAIN CONSULT & 2D ECHO | 1 |
| | | CONSULTATION | 11 |
| | | CONSULTATION IR PRE-PROCEDURE | 1 |
| | | FRACTURE CONSULT APPT. DR. LU | 1 |
| | | GIM CONSULT REF FROM ED | 1 |
| | | MILTON ER PAEDS CONSULT | 1 |
| | | NADERIPOUR 15 MINUTE CONSULT | 1 |
| | | NEPHROLOGY DR. PANDEYA CONSULT | 1 |
| | | NEURO CONSULT-45 - DR I | 2 |
| Consult subtotal | | 20 | |

Appointment details of 2019/20 cases

| Type | Procedure scheduled | Scheduled date | # of cases |
|------------|---------------------|----------------|------------|
| Consult | CONSULTATION | Jul 9,2019 | 1 |
| Consult | CHEST PAIN CONSUL | Feb 28,2020 | 1 |
| Consult | CONSULTATION | Mar 23,2020 | 2 |
| Consult | CONSULTATION | Jan 29,2020 | 1 |
| Consult | CONSULTATION | Dec 17,2019 | 1 |
| Consult | CONSULTATION | Dec 13,2019 | 1 |
| Consult | CONSULTATION | Oct 15,2019 | 1 |
| Consult | CONSULTATION IR P | Oct 30,2019 | 1 |
| Consult | CONSULTATION | Sep 25,2019 | 1 |
| Consult | CONSULTATION | Mar 18,2020 | 1 |
| Consult | NEURO CONSULT-45 | Feb 27,2020 | 1 |
| Consult | NEURO CONSULT-45 | Nov 18,2019 | 1 |
| Consult | NEPHROLOGY DR. PA | Mar 5,2020 | 1 |
| Consult | GIM CONSULT REF F | Sep 30,2019 | 1 |
| Consult | FRACTURE CONSULT | Feb 20,2020 | 1 |
| Consult | NADERIPOUR 15 MIN | Feb 20,2020 | 1 |
| Consult | MILTON ER PAEDS C | Sep 12,2019 | 1 |
| Consult | CONSULTATION | Sep 30,2019 | 1 |
| Consult | CONSULTATION | Jan 16,2020 | 1 |
| CT | CT CHEST - NO CONT | May 27,2019 | 1 |
| CT | CT HEAD - NO CONT | Mar 17,2020 | 1 |
| CT | CT CHEST - NO CONT | Jan 6,2020 | 1 |
| CT | CT ANGIO CAROTID / | Nov 28,2019 | 1 |
| CT | CT ABDOMEN PELVIS | Feb 13,2020 | 1 |
| CT | CT CHEST/ABDO/PEL | Jul 31,2019 | 1 |
| CT | CT CHEST - NO CONT | Jun 12,2019 | 1 |
| CT | CT CHEST - NO CONT | Aug 8,2019 | 1 |
| CT | CT CHEST - NO CONT | Aug 26,2019 | 1 |
| CT | CT CHEST - NO CONT | Oct 2,2019 | 1 |
| CT | CT CHEST - NO CONT | Jan 6,2020 | 1 |
| CT | CT CHEST - NO CONT | Mar 3,2020 | 1 |
| CT | CT CHEST CONTRAST | Sep 5,2019 | 1 |
| CT | CT HEAD NO CONTRA | Apr 30,2019 | 1 |
| CT | CT HEAD NO CONTRA | Sep 6,2019 | 1 |
| CT | CT ABDO/PELVIS/CH | Oct 18,2019 | 1 |
| CT | CT CHEST - NO CONT | Oct 1,2019 | 1 |
| CT | CT CHEST - NO CONT | Nov 26,2019 | 1 |
| MRI | MRI - HEAD 15 MINU | Jul 3,2019 | 1 |
| MRI | MRI - ABDOMEN-LT | Aug 15,2019 | 1 |
| MRI | MRI - HEAD WITH GA | Nov 6,2019 | 1 |
| MRI | MRI - ABDOMEN - GA | Feb 27,2020 | 1 |
| MRI | MRI - ABDOMEN - GA | Jan 15,2020 | 1 |
| MRI | MRI - L SPINE | Mar 6,2020 | 1 |
| Pulmonary | PULMONARY FUNCT | Jan 29,2020 | 1 |
| Pulmonary | PULMONARY FUNCT | Feb 12,2020 | 1 |
| Pulmonary | PULMONARY FUNCT | Apr 30,2019 | 1 |
| Pulmonary | PULMONARY FUNCT | Jun 12,2019 | 1 |
| Pulmonary | PULMONARY FUNCT | Jul 10,2019 | 1 |
| Pulmonary | PULMONARY FUNCT | Jul 12,2019 | 1 |
| Pulmonary | PULMONARY FUNCT | Aug 8,2019 | 1 |
| Pulmonary | PULMONARY FUNCT | Sep 11,2019 | 1 |
| Pulmonary | PULMONARY FUNCT | Nov 8,2019 | 1 |
| Pulmonary | PULMONARY FUNCT | Jan 28,2020 | 1 |
| Pulmonary | PULMONARY FUNCT | Jan 6,2020 | 1 |
| Pulmonary | PULMONARY FUNCT | Nov 28,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US KIDNEY AND BLA | Jan 22,2020 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US VENOUS DOPPLE | Dec 3,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US ABDOMEN | May 7,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US ABDOMEN | Sep 16,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US ABDOMEN | Nov 11,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US ABDOMEN | Dec 8,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US VENOUS DOPPLE | Jul 23,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US ABDOMEN | Jan 3,2020 | 1 |

| | | | |
|--------------|--------------------|-------------|-----------|
| Ultrasound | US PELVIS | Oct 18,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | ULTRASOUND ABDO | Jun 17,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | ULTRASOUND ABDO | Jun 19,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | ULTRASOUND ABDO | Oct 11,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US KIDNEYS AND BLA | Apr 10,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US ABDOMEN | Aug 21,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US GROIN | Jun 19,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US ARMS - VENOUS | May 7,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US ARMS - ARTERIAL | May 14,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | ULTRASOUND ABDO | Mar 7,2020 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US ABDOMINAL DOP | Jul 5,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | ULTRASOUND ABDO | Mar 26,2020 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US KIDNEYS AND BLA | Jun 20,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US KIDNEYS AND BLA | Sep 11,2019 | 2 |
| Ultrasound | US KIDNEYS AND BLA | Oct 27,2019 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US KIDNEYS AND BLA | Feb 2,2020 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US ABDOMEN | Feb 19,2020 | 1 |
| Ultrasound | US ARTERIAL DOPPL | Jan 29,2020 | 1 |
| VIDEO FLU | MDH VIDEOFLUORO | Oct 8,2019 | 1 |
| VIDEO FLU | VIDEO FLUOROSCOPI | Jan 31,2020 | 1 |
| Total | | | 85 |