

January 29, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Gage Haubrich  
#114 615 McWillie Ave  
Saskatoon, SK S7S 1J4

**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](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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Oakville, ON L6M 0L8  
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**Halton Healthcare's death while on the wait list**

	2019/20
Death on Wait List	10

**Details of the cases**

		Scheduled Surgery Date	Cancellation Date	Procedure Description	Patient referred date to specialist	Decision Date
FY 19/20	Georgetown Hospital	2019-04-15	2019-04-15	Resection, Transurethral Bladder Tumour (TURBT)	2019-02-25	2019-02-25
	Milton District Hospital	2019-08-29	2019-08-09	Cystoscopy, Flexible		
		2019-12-05	2019-12-02	Cystoscopy, Flexible		
		2020-02-04	2019-12-09	Gastroscopy		
	Oakville-Trafalgar Hospital	2019-04-05	2019-03-27	Extraction, Cataract Phacoemulsification with IOL	2017-09-14	2018-10-12
		2019-06-17	2019-06-17	Cystoscopy, Flexible		
		2019-07-22	2019-06-19	Arthroplasty, Total Knee - Navigation	2018-07-31	2018-12-18
		2019-10-15	2019-09-25	Resection, Transurethral Bladder Tumour (TURBT)		2019-04-01
		2020-01-14	2019-10-31	Reduction, Mammoplasty Bilateral	2016-08-17	2018-09-25
		2020-02-12	2020-02-11	Cystoscopy, Flexible		

Data Source: PICIS