

Reference: 206-IH-2020-2021

January 20, 2021

Gage Haubrich

Sent via email: Gage Haubrich <gage@secondstreet.org>

**Re: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act) Response to Request for Information**

### **Request**

Interior Health (IH) received your request for access to information under the **Act**. Your request was:

*I have two requests. My Requests are 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 cancellation. Please also note the government's target time for providing the meeting or scan in question. (Note: many hospitals/health regions were able to identify such cases as they track the reason for cancelled operations)*

### **Response**

The following responsive records are available by clicking this secure link: <https://sftp.interiorhealth.ca/?u=dKaH&p=RNVB&path=/206-IH-2020-2021%20Appendix%20A%20and%20B.pdf>

- Please be advised that our information team has indicated that the data in the control and custody of Interior Health cannot be used to determine a correlation between the surgery and a patient death i.e. surgical procedure and cause of death may not be related*
- 206-IH-2020-2021 Appendix A – Elective Surgical Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death
- 206-IH-2020-2021 Appendix B – Medical Imaging Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death
- Please note that the link will expire in 30 calendar days

Any redactions identified in the records include reference to a section of the **Act**. You can find the Act here:

[http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/96165\\_00](http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/96165_00).

### **Review**

Under s. 52 of the **Act**, you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review IH's response to your request. You have 30 days from receipt of this letter to request a review by writing to:

Information and Privacy Commissioner  
PO Box 9038 Stn Prov Govt  
4th Floor, 947 Fort Street, Victoria BC, V8W 9A4  
Telephone 250-387-5629 Fax 250-387-1696

If you wish to request a review, please provide the Commissioner's office with:

1. Your name, address and telephone number;
2. The request number IH assigned to your request (the "reference" at the top of this letter);
3. The type of request you made (i.e. access, correction, fee complaint, time limit complaint);
4. A copy of IH's decision; and
5. The reasons or grounds upon which you are requesting the review.

Sincerely,

Catharine Bruch

Freedom of Information Department, Interior Health Authority



<b>Title</b>	IHA Elective Surgical Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death (FOI 206-IH-2020-2021)
<b>Reporting Period</b>	Fiscal Year 2019/20 (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020)
<b>Requestor</b>	Catharine Bruch, Freedom of Information Department, Interior Health Authority
<b>Purpose/Request</b>	To provide the number of patients that cancelled surgery due to death while on the Interior Health wait list for elective surgery by procedure type.

### Findings & Analysis

In Fiscal Year 2019/20, there were 149 booking records cancelled and removed from the Interior Health Authority's (IHA) waitlist due to patient death, representing 2.1% of all cancelled bookings in IHA (7,098 total cancelled bookings). There were over 75 various types of procedures cancelled due to patient death, Cataracts topped the list with 53 (36%) bookings cancelled due to patient death, followed by Arthroplasty Hip Replacements with 14 (9%) cancelled bookings.

The wait time for surgery starts the day the booking form is received at an Interior Health hospital Booking Office to the procedure date (or removal from the waitlist), minus unavailable time reported on the booking record. Of the 149 bookings that were cancelled due to patient death, 11% (17 bookings) had been waiting over the 26-week target wait time for surgery at the date of patient death. Due to low patient volumes, specific case information and target times have been excluded.

The reason for patient death is not documented in Interior Health and is unknown. Consequently, this report cannot be used to determine a correlation between the wait time for surgery and patient death.

**Table 1. Interior Health number of Booking Records cancelled due to Patient Death by Procedure Group, Fiscal Year 2019/20**

Procedure Group	# of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death
Cataract Extraction & Intraocular Lens (IOL) Implant	53
Arthroplasty Hip Replacement	14
Other Surgical Procedures (<10 Total Cases)*	82
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>149</b>
% of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death that were Waiting Over the 26 week Target	11%

Note: \*Due to patient confidentiality concerns all surgical volumes <10 cases are suppressed.



## Data Notes & Limitations

- Data is based on primary procedure only.
- Data includes elective OR procedures only, both daycare and inpatient cases.
- The data excludes non-OR procedures (z. procedures).
- Data includes only booking records with a cancellation date within Fiscal Year 2019/20 (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020)
- Wait times are calculated from the booking form received date to the patient expiry date (Patient date of death), excluding patient unavailable dates. Unavailable time is documented dates that the patient is unavailable for surgery due to personal reasons (i.e. out-of-country, not ready, etc.), or for medical reasons.
- Procedure Group = Surgical Patient Registry (SPR) Procedure Group
- Note: Due to patient confidentiality concerns all surgical volumes <10 cases are suppressed.

Attachments: N/A  
Data Source: Picis OR Manager via Surgical Services2 Universe, IH Data Warehouse  
Report Author: Robyn Tremblay, Strategic Information Analyst, Strategic Information  
Date Prepared: 19 November 2020



<b>Title</b>	IHA Medical Imaging Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death (FOI 206-IH-2020-2021)
<b>Reporting Period</b>	Fiscal Year 2019/20 (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020)
<b>Requestor</b>	Catharine Bruch, Freedom of Information Department, Interior Health Authority
<b>Purpose/Request</b>	To provide the number of cancelled Medical Imaging bookings due to death while on the Interior Health wait list.

### Findings & Analysis

In Fiscal Year 2019/20, there were 618 Medical Imaging bookings cancelled and removed from the Interior Health Authority's (IHA) waitlist due to patient death. The top three Medical Imaging procedures cancelled due to patient death were CTs (249 bookings), Ultrasound (108 bookings), and Echo (96 bookings). These top three Medical Imaging procedures account for over 70% of the total cancelled bookings due to patient death.

The wait time for a Medical Imaging procedure starts the day the booking form is received at an Interior Health hospital to the procedure date (or removal from the waitlist). Of the 618 bookings that were cancelled due to patient death, 42% (262 bookings) had been waiting over the priority wait time target for the Medical Imaging procedure as of the cancelled date. 39% of cancelled Medical Imaging bookings were assigned a Priority level 5 (scheduled exam) and do not have an associated wait time target.

The reason for patient death is not documented in Interior Health and is unknown. Consequently, this report cannot be used to determine a correlation between the wait time for the Medical Imaging appointment and patient death.

**Table 1. Interior Health number of Medical Imaging Bookings cancelled due to Patient Death by Procedure Group, Fiscal Year 2019/20**

Medical Imaging Procedure Group	# of MI Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death
CT	249
Ultrasound	108
Echo	96
MRI	55
Nuclear Medicine	32
Interventional Radiology	32
X-Ray	17
Mammography	12
Other MI Procedures (<15 Total Cases)*	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>618</b>
% of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death that were Waiting Over the Priority Target	42%

Note: \*Due to patient confidentiality concerns all Medical Imaging volumes <10 cases are suppressed.



## Data Notes & Limitations

- Data is based on one Medical Imaging procedure booking per patient.
- Data includes only Medical Imaging booking records with a cancellation date within Fiscal Year 2019/20 (April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020)
- Wait times are calculated from the Medical Imaging booking form received date to the Cancellation date. Patient expiry date (Patient date of death) is not tracked in this data set.
- Medical Imaging Priority Levels and associated target wait times:

Exam Priority Level	Priority Category	Benchmark
Level 1 (P1)	Emergent	1 day
Level 2 (P2)	Urgent	7 days
Level 3 (P3)	Semi-Urgent	30 days
Level 4 (P4)	Non-Urgent	60 days

- Note: Due to patient confidentiality concerns all Medical Imaging volumes <10 cases are suppressed.

Attachments: N/A

Data Source: CWS Statistical Desktop, Meditech (Mari Prithviram, PROGRAMMER/SYSTEMS ANALYST, IH SCHEDULING SYSTEMS)

Report Author: Robyn Tremblay, Strategic Information Analyst, Strategic Information

Date Prepared: 4 January 2020