

PRIVATE and CONFIDENTIAL
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Gage Haubrich
#114 615 McWillie Avenue
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan S7S 1J4

RE: Access Decision 2021-002

Dear Gage,

This letter is in response to your request under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act for access to:

Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for a surgical procedure during calendar year 2020. 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)

I am pleased to grant you access to all of your request except for:

- 1) Procedure date as no date had been booked prior to the patient passing.

The information requested is split into cardiac surgery wait times (Page 3) and elective surgeries (page 4).

You may ask for a review of this decision within 30 days of receiving this letter by writing to:

Registrar, Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario, 2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1A8, Telephone: (416) 326-3333 or toll free 1-800-3870073.

If you decide to request a review of this decision, please provide the Commissioner's office with the following:

- The file number listed at the beginning of this letter;
- A copy of this decision letter;
- A copy of the original request for information you sent to our institution
- The reasons why you believe the records exist (if the decision was that no records exist)

In addition, you must send an appeal fee to Commissioner's office. If your request was for your personal information, the appeal fee is \$10.00. The appeal fee for all other requests for information is \$25.00. Please include the fee with your letter to appeal - appeal fees should be in the form of either a cheque or money order, payable to the Minister of Finance.

We would appreciate you using the file number assigned to your request in any further correspondence.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (519) 685-8500 ext. 78982

Sincerely,



Ivan Recinos
Privacy Consultant
London Health Sciences Centre
(519) 685-8500 ext. 78982

Enclosed.

The Request:

Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting for a surgical procedure in fiscal year 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)

The Response:

The Access to Care (ATC) Wait Times Information System (WTIS) and the Cardiac CorHealth WTIS were searched in order to respond, and the findings are as follows:

1. In calendar year 2020, there were 13 patients removed from the wait list due to being “deceased”. Cardiac and Surgery have processes to escalate cases when the patient’s medical conditions become worse; they rebook or move other patients around in their currently scheduled OR blocks, or they escalate and the case is prioritized as an OR Board case accordingly.
2. In calendar year 2020, where Recommended Wait Time is “N/A” this is indicating that there is no recommended wait time that has been set by CorHealth (which is the provincial body that oversees Cardiac Surgery data) for that specific surgery.
3. Only patients who were referred for surgery AND accepted by a physician are included
4. Those patient who are on a DART (decision affecting readiness to treat) at the time of death are not included

Patient	Procedure Type	Referral Date	Date of Death	Recommended Wait Time (Days)
1	Valve Only (AS, MR, AR)	09/26/2019	03/22/2020	14
2	CABG + Valve	12/03/2019	05/15/2020	88
3	CABG + Valve	02/24/2020	05/24/2020	14
4	CABG	09/03/2019	05/31/2020	88
5	Valve Only (AS, MR, AR)	07/12/2018	06/11/2020	42
6	CABG	04/28/2020	06/18/2020	55
7	TAVI	03/14/2020	06/26/2020	N/A
8	CABG	06/05/2020	09/05/2020	31
9	TAVI	04/22/2020	09/07/2020	N/A
10	Aortic Operation	09/12/2020	09/12/2020	N/A
11	TAVI	06/09/2020	09/20/2020	N/A
12	Valve Only (AS, MR, AR)	12/18/2019	10/12/2020	N/A
13	Other Valve	11/06/2020	11/18/2020	N/A

Patients that Died While Waiting for an Elective Surgery Procedure (Includes Access To Care (ATC) Wait Times Information System (WTIS) services which do not contain cardiac) Calendar Year 2020

This report was produced in response to a Freedom of Information Request made to the Decision Support. The request was data on the number of patients who died while waiting for their elective surgery procedure.

The LHSC Surgery WTIS and Cerner data mart sources were used to identify these cases that were cancelled due to 'Patient Deceased' in CY2020.

The **Removed from List date** was used as a proxy for the **death date** as the **actual date of death is not an ATC data entry requirement from the Ministry**, or in the data sources used for this report.

Additionally, many patients delayed their surgeries for their own reasons and these cases were deleted from this list as these patients were not actively waiting at that time.

Surgeon's office staff will cancel surgery appointments or patients from the surgical request list when they find out that the patient is deceased. However, there is no reliable method to collect or interface real time information for deaths that happen outside LHSC.

		Wait 1 Data Elements and Results										Wait 2 Data Elements						
Calendar Year	Procedure Type (Service Area, Service Detail 1 & 2)	Referral Date	Consult Date	DARC Days	Wait1 Days	Wait1 Priority	Wait1 Target Days	Wait1 Over Target	Decision To Treat Date	Scheduled Surgery Date	Removed From List Date	DART Days	Wait2 Days	Wait2 Days (Calculated from DTT to Removal From List Date)	Wait2 Priority	Wait2 Target Days	Wait2 Days Over Target, based on Removal From List	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Knee ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	3/8/2019	4/9/2019	0	32	4	182	150	4/9/2019	N/A	10/27/2020	0	0	567	4	182	385	
CY2020	General Surgery,Digestive System Surgery,Colorectal	7/5/2019	8/22/2019	0	48	4	182	134	10/2/2019	1/17/2020	1/7/2020	0	0	97	4	182	-85	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Hip ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5/24/2019	N/A	3/17/2020	0	0	298	4	182	116	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Hip ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7/6/2018	N/A	9/30/2020	0	0	817	4	182	635	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Knee ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	8/28/2019	10/31/2019	0	64	4	182	118	10/31/2019	N/A	11/7/2020	0	0	373	4	182	191	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Knee ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	5/16/2019	N/A	2/12/2020	0	0	272	4	182	90	
CY2020	Paediatric Urologic Surgery,Renal/Bladder Procedures,Other Renal/Bladder Procedures	2/5/2019	4/25/2019	0	79	3	90	11	4/25/2019	N/A	10/5/2020	0	0	529	4	182	347	
CY2020	Neurosurgery,Epilepsy/Functional Surgery,	6/12/2019	9/25/2019	0	105	4	182	77	9/25/2019	N/A	4/6/2020	0	0	194	3	56	138	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Knee ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	11/12/2018	3/8/2019	0	116	4	182	66	3/8/2019	N/A	6/9/2020	0	0	459	4	182	277	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Knee ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	7/27/2018	2/15/2019	0	203	4	182	N/A	2/15/2019	N/A	1/6/2020	0	0	325	4	182	143	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Knee ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	10/5/2018	N/A	9/1/2020	0	0	697	4	182	515	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Spine ,Other Spine Surgery	11/21/2018	12/20/2018	0	29	2	30	1	3/7/2020	N/A	11/16/2020	0	0	620	2	42	578	
CY2020	Oncology Procedures,Gynaecological,Treatment	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2/6/2020	N/A	4/23/2020	0	0	77	3	28	49	
CY2020	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dentistry,Dental/Periodontal/Dento-Alveolar Procedures,Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities	3/8/2019	4/23/2019	0	46	4	182	136	4/23/2019	N/A	6/29/2020	0	0	433	4	182	251	
CY2020	Otolaryngic Surgery,Neck Surgery,	11/15/2018	12/17/2018	0	32	4	182	150	12/17/2018	N/A	3/6/2020	0	0	445	4	182	263	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Knee ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4/18/2020	N/A	3/9/2020	0	0	326	4	182	144	
CY2020	Vascular Surgery,Aneurysm Surgery,Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Surgery	6/4/2020	6/9/2020	5	0	2	30	30	6/9/2020	6/15/2020	6/13/2020	0	0	4	2	14	-10	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Hip ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	2/10/2019	9/30/2019	0	232	4	182	N/A	9/30/2019	N/A	3/8/2020	0	0	160	4	182	-22	
CY2020	Paediatric General Surgery,Stomach/Duodenum/Small Bowel Surgery,	12/16/2019	1/6/2020	0	21	4	182	161	1/6/2020	N/A	1/17/2020	0	0	11	4	182	-171	
CY2020	Paediatric General Surgery,Abdominal Wall/Inguinal Canal Surgery,Other Abdominal Wall/Inguinal Canal Surgery	5/27/2020	5/27/2020	0	0	2	30	30	5/27/2020	N/A	6/17/2020	0	0	21	2	21	0	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Knee ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3/16/2020	N/A	4/15/2020	0	0	30	4	182	-152	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Spine ,Other Spine Surgery	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	11/26/2018	N/A	3/25/2020	0	0	485	3	84	401	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Knee ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	3/21/2019	N/A	4/17/2020	0	0	393	4	182	211	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Hip ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	2/1/2019	3/25/2019	0	52	3	90	38	3/25/2019	N/A	8/31/2020	0	0	525	4	182	343	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Knee ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	11/20/2018	5/16/2019	0	177	4	182	5	5/16/2019	N/A	4/12/2020	0	0	332	4	182	150	
CY2020	Otolaryngic Surgery,Benign Oral Cavity Surgery,	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	9/10/2018	N/A	3/6/2020	0	0	543	4	182	361	
CY2020	Oncology Procedures,Endocrine (Thyroid, Endocrine Pancreas, Adrenal Ph,Treatment	12/20/2019	2/2/2020	0	44	4	35	N/A	3/20/2020	N/A	7/21/2020	0	0	123	4	84	39	
CY2020	Otolaryngic Surgery,Thyroid Surgery,	7/2/2019	8/12/2019	0	41	4	182	141	8/12/2019	N/A	2/14/2020	0	0	186	4	182	4	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Knee ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	11/21/2016	2/7/2017	0	78	4	182	104	11/13/2018	N/A	2/10/2020	0	0	454	4	182	272	
CY2020	Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dentistry,Dental/Periodontal/Dento-Alveolar Procedures,Dentistry for Persons with Disabilities	1/25/2017	3/7/2017	0	41	3	90	49	1/23/2019	N/A	1/13/2020	0	0	355	4	182	173	
CY2020	Orthopaedic Surgery,Hip ,Primary Total Joint Replacement	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	7/19/2019	N/A	1/8/2020	0	0	173	4	182	-9	
CY2020	Otolaryngic Surgery,Neck Surgery,	7/19/2019	8/6/2019	0	18	4	182	164	8/6/2019	N/A	8/7/2020	0	0	367	4	182	185	
CY2020	Otolaryngic Surgery,Upper Airway Surgery,Larynx Surgery	3/13/2019	5/21/2019	0	69	4	182	113	5/21/2019	N/A	2/9/2020	0	0	264	4	182	82	

Definitions:

DARC Days- Dates Affecting Readiness to Consult. This is the # of days that the patient advised that they were not available to attend a physician consult appointment. This stops the wait time clock, so those days aren't counted against target wait time.

DART Days- Dates Affecting Readiness to Consult. This is the # of days that the patient advised that they were not available to have their surgery procedure. This stops the wait time clock, so those days aren't counted against target wait time.

Wait 1 Days- Time between "referral received date" and "consult" appointment date with surgeon, minus any DARCs.

Wait 2 Days- Time between "decision to treat date" and "OR surgery procedure date" minus any DARTs.