



February 11, 2021



Re: Freedom of Information Request (FOI) OH20-023



I am writing regarding your access request OH20-023, made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ('the Act') that was received by our office on December 17, 2020 and clarified on January 12, 2021. The request is for the following general records:

- 1) the overall number of people who died while on a waiting list for a surgical procedure in 2019-20
- 2) the overall number of people who died while on a waiting list for a surgical procedure in 2020-21
- 3) the overall number of people who died while on a waiting list for a diagnostic scan in 2019-20

A search has been conducted and the responsive information has been reviewed. A decision has been made to grant access to the responsive information. This information is enclosed with this access decision letter.

The estimated fee for processing your request was \$30. The actual fee breakdown is as follows:

- \$30 for search time based on 1 hour of time @ \$30 per hour

The Act provides that all or part of the fee can be waived if in our opinion it is fair and equitable to do so. The decision has been made to waive the fees for this request.

You may request the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Ontario ('the IPC') to review this decision within thirty days from the date of this letter. The IPC's address is Suite 1400, 2 Bloor Street East, Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1A8. The appeal fee for a request like yours is \$25.00, payable by cheque or money order to the Minister of Finance. This fee must be included with your correspondence with the Commissioner's office. Please note that, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the IPC may have different or additional procedures for handling appeals and related fees at this time. You may wish to refer to the IPC website at [www.ipc.on.ca](http://www.ipc.on.ca), or phone the IPC at 1-800-387-0073, for details.

Should you have any questions, please contact me. We would appreciate you using our request number OH20-023 in any further correspondence with Ontario Health about this request.

Regards,

**Beth Parton, PhD**

Privacy Specialist, Interim FOI Lead  
Legal, Privacy, Risk and Governance  
Ontario Health

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**Ontario  
Health**

## **Freedom of Information Access Request OH20-023 Responsive Records**

\*Data provided from the Wait Time Information System (WTIS). Data based on procedures cancelled in the WTIS with the reason that the procedure was no longer required due to patient death.

### **Surgery**

Between 4/1/2019 and 3/31/2020, there were 1032 surgeries cancelled in Ontario where the patient passed away before the procedure took place.

Between 4/1/2020 and 12/31/2020, there were 820 surgeries cancelled in Ontario where the patient passed away before the procedure took place.

Mortality is impacted by many complex and interrelated clinical, socioeconomic, and cultural factors. The above surgical statistics do not indicate the procedures were intended to be life-saving, nor that patients passed away as a result of an extended waitlist for a surgical procedure.

### **Diagnostic Imaging**

Between 4/1/2019 and 3/31/2020, there were 5,534 magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and computed tomography (CT) procedures cancelled in Ontario when the patients passed away before the procedures took place.

Mortality is impacted by many complex and interrelated clinical, socioeconomic, and cultural factors. This statistic does not indicate the procedures were intended to be life-saving, nor that patients passed away because they were on an extended waitlist for MRI or CT.

Service Area	March 18, 2020 Wait List	Procedures completed during identified dates (March 18 – July 27)	
		2019*	2020
CT Scan	193,847	735,939	574,435
MRI Scan	207,323	324,244	186,307

\* 2019 volume is based on data from March 20 – July 29, 2019 for comparative purposes

Extrapolation of wait list size based on previous year volumes is only a general estimate.

Good afternoon,

**For MRI and CT services**

Between 1/1/2020 and 12/31/2020, there were 6,165 services cancelled where the patient passed away before the procedure took place.

This statistic does not indicate the procedures were intended to be life-saving, nor that patients passed away because they were on an extended waitlist for a surgical procedure. Mortality is impacted by many complex and interrelated clinical, socioeconomic, and cultural factors.

**Surgery**

Between 1/1/2020 and 12/31/2020, there were 1086 surgeries cancelled in Ontario where the patient passed away before the procedure took place.

This statistic does not indicate the procedures were intended to be life-saving, nor that patients passed away because they were on an extended waitlist for a surgical procedure. Mortality is impacted by many complex and interrelated clinical, socioeconomic, and cultural factors.

Please note that any additional records will require the completion of another FOI Access Request form, along with the fee of \$5.00, payable to the Minister of Finance.

Best,

**Beth Parton, PhD**

Privacy Specialist, Interim FOI Lead

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