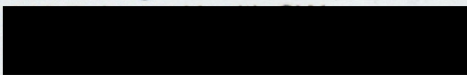


July 5, 2021

Colin Craig


Dear Mr. Craig:

Re: Your request for access to information under Part 2 of
The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act:
(Our File No. 2021-080-418170)

On June 3, 2021, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority received your request for access to the following records:

2021-080-418170

"Please provide documentation on the number of patients who died, by year, while waiting for cardiac surgery between 2016/17-2020/21. For each case, please note the decision date to proceed with surgery, the date the patient was placed on a waiting list (if it differs from the former), the maximum recommended wait time for their procedure, scheduled date for surgery and date of death or cancellation. Please note we are not seeking identifiable health information such as names, birthdates, health care number, etc."

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access to these records has been granted in part.

As you requested a copy of the records, and as they can reasonably be reproduced, in accordance with clause 14(1)(a) of the *Act*, copies of the records that are accessible under the *Act* are enclosed.

The public body has routinely tracked all outpatient cardiac surgery waitlists deaths going back to April 2019. This would include all patients who were outpatients at the time they were accepted for cardiac surgery.

For the period spanning April 2016 to March 2019, we did not have a tracking mechanism for the outpatient cardiac surgery waitlist deaths.

We have only recently started tracking inpatient cardiac surgery waitlist deaths as of July 2020. Historically this patient population has been significantly more acute than the outpatient cardiac surgery population, as they were admitted to hospital at the time they were accepted for surgery, and were waiting for their procedure as an inpatient. We do not have a great mechanism for identifying these patients retrospectively (prior to July 2020).

Therefore, given the above access is refused, as these records contain information that falls within the following exceptions to disclosure in *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

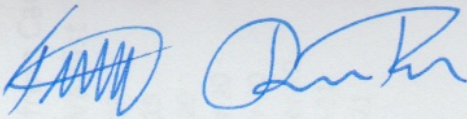
- 12(1) In a response under section 11, the head of the public body shall inform the applicant
 - (c) if access to the record is refused,
 - (i) in the case of a record that does not exist or cannot be located, that the record does not exist or cannot be located.

Subsection 59(1) of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* provides that you may make a complaint about our decision respecting your request for access to the Manitoba Ombudsman. You have 60 days from the receipt of this letter to make a complaint on the prescribed form to:

Manitoba Ombudsman
750 - 500 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R3C 3X1
204 982-9130
1-800-665-0531

If you have any questions, please contact Christina Von Schindler, Access and Privacy Coordinator, at 1502 - 155 Carlton Street, Winnipeg MB R3C 3H8 (204) 926-7049.

Sincerely,



for Christina Von Schindler
Access and Privacy Coordinator

CVS/tdr

Encl.

**Date Accepted for Cardiac
Surgery**

March-19
May-19
March-20
September-20
May-20
November-20
January-21
December-20

Date of Death

April-19
June-19
April-20
October-20
October-20
November-20
March-21
April-21

**Date Removed from Cardiac
Surgery Waitlist**

April-19
June-19
April-20
October-20
October-20
December-20
March-21
May-21

**Maximum Recommended Wait
Time (Days)**

180
N/A
90
90
90
180
N/A
N/A