

June 28, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Re: Halton Healthcare FOI Request #2-2021 – Decision Letter

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 June 15, 2021 together with the \$10 application fee.

Your request was as follows:

1.

Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for surgery or a procedure in fiscal year 2020-21. 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 fiscal year 2020-21. 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)

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, 2020 and March 31, 2021; and
- (b) Either a diagnostic scan or a consultation with a specialist between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

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.

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 we call 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,

Sandy Vrbn
Information Access & Privacy Coordinator
Halton Healthcare
3001 Hospital Gate
Oakville, ON L6M 0L8
905-845-2571 Ext 4128
svrbn@haltonhealthcare.com

Halton Healthcare's death while on the wait list

	2020/21
Death on Wait List	7

Details of the cases

		Scheduled Surgery Date	Cancellation Date	Procedure Description	Patient referred date to specialist	Decision Date
FY 20/21	Georgetown Hospital	2/4/2021	9/15/2020	Colonoscopy		
	Oakville-Trafalgar Hospital	5/6/2020	5/5/2020	Cystoscopy, Stent Change		
		8/4/2020	8/4/2020	Functional Endoscopic Sinus Surgery (FESS)	7/25/2020	7/28/2020
		10/26/2020	10/15/2020	Extraction, Cataract Phacoemulsification with IOL		9/8/2020
		11/3/2020	10/2/2020	Hernia Repair, Inguinal - General	2/12/2020	2/26/2020
		12/9/2020	12/8/2020	Cystoscopy, Flexible		
		1/28/2021	1/20/2021	Insertion, Lap Peritoneal Dialysis Catheter	1/13/2021	1/14/2021

Data Source: PICIS

June 28, 2021

VIA EMAIL

[REDACTED]

Re: Halton Healthcare FOI Request #2-2021 – Decision Letter

Dear [REDACTED]

We are writing in response to your two access requests under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, which we received on June 15, 2021 together with the \$10 application fee.

Your request was as follows:

1. _____
Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for surgery or a procedure in fiscal year 2020-21. 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 fiscal year 2020-21. 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)

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, 2020 and March 31, 2021; and
- (b) Either a diagnostic scan or a consultation with a specialist between April 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

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.

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 we call 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,

Sandy Vrban
Information Access & Privacy Coordinator
Halton Healthcare
3001 Hospital Gate
Oakville, ON L6M 0L8
905-845-2571 Ext 4128
svrban@haltonhealthcare.com

Halton Healthcare's death while waiting for DI and Specialist appointment

		2020/21
DI	CT	23
	Mamography	1
	MRI	9
	Pulmonary function test	12
	Ultrasound	30
	DI Subtotal	75
Waiting for Specialist Consult		18

Above table represent cases with a scheduled appointment, and having appointment cancelled with cancellation reason of "Patient Expired"

Data Source: HHS Scheduling System

Breakdown by procedure

			2020/21
DI	Ultrasound	US ABDOMEN	9
		Central Venous Access Flush	3
		ULTRASOUND ABDOMEN	3
		US CAROTID DOPPLER	3
		US ABDOMINAL DOPPLER	2
		US ARM VENOUS RIGHT - DVT	2
		US BIOPHYSICAL PROFILE	2
		US KIDNEYS AND BLADDER	2
		EOR US CAROTID 32 AT GEO	1
		US ARMS - VENOUS CLINIC PT	1
		US BREAST LEFT	1
		US PELVIS	1
	Pulmonary function test	PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST	12
	MRI	MRI - ABDOMEN - GADO	3
		MRI - HEAD WITH GADO	3
		MRI - ABDOMEN-LTD - NO GAD	1
		MRI - HEAD	1
	Mamography	MRI - LEFT SHOULDER	1
		MAMMO-OBSP	1
	CT	CT CHEST - NO CONTRAST	8
		CT CHEST/ABDO/PELVIS CONTRAST	5
CT ABDOMEN PELVIS CONTRAST		3	
CT CHEST CONTRAST		3	
CT CHEST/NECK CONTRAST		2	
CLI MS INFECT DIS-DR. WARREN		1	
CT SINUSES NO CONTRAST		1	
Total DI		75	
Consult	CONSULTATION	9	
	Medical Oncology Consult 60min	2	
	NEURO CONSULT - 45	2	
	GIM CONSULT REF FROM ED	1	
	INTERNAL MEDICINE CONSULT	1	
	OAKVILLE ANESTHESIA CONSULT	1	
	PACEMAKER CONSULTATION	1	
	SCRIVEN 15 MINUTE CONSULT	1	
	Total waiting for consult		18

Appointment details of 2020/21 cases

Type	Procedure scheduled for	Scheduled date	# of cases
Consult	CONSULTATION	Aug 18,2020	1
	CONSULTATION	Aug 4,2020	1
	CONSULTATION	Feb 2,2021	1
	CONSULTATION	Jul 27,2020	1
	CONSULTATION	Jul 7,2020	1
	CONSULTATION	Jun 15,2020	1
	CONSULTATION	Jun 3,2020	1
	CONSULTATION	May 11,2020	1
	CONSULTATION	Nov 2,2020	1
	GIM CONSULT REF FROM ED	Mar 22,2021	1
	INTERNAL MEDICINE CONSULT	Nov 26,2020	1
	Medical Oncology Consult 60min	Feb 16,2021	1
	Medical Oncology Consult 60min	Nov 17,2020	1
	NEURO CONSULT - 45	Aug 18,2020	1
	NEURO CONSULT - 45	Feb 9,2021	1
	OAKVILLE ANESTHESIA CONSULT	Jan 25,2021	1
	PACEMAKER CONSULTATION	Jul 8,2020	1
	SCRIVEN 15 MINUTE CONSULT	Jul 6,2020	1
	CLI MS INFECT DIS-DR. WARREN	Jun 25,2020	1
	CT ABDOMEN PELVIS CONTRAST	Jun 17,2020	1

CT	CT ABDOMEN PELVIS CONTRAST	Nov 23,2020	1
	CT ABDOMEN PELVIS CONTRAST	Oct 19,2020	1
	CT CHEST - NO CONTRAST	Apr 1,2020	1
	CT CHEST - NO CONTRAST	Dec 18,2020	1
	CT CHEST - NO CONTRAST	Dec 4,2020	1
	CT CHEST - NO CONTRAST	Feb 8,2021	1
	CT CHEST - NO CONTRAST	Jun 1,2020	1
	CT CHEST - NO CONTRAST	Nov 17,2020	1
	CT CHEST - NO CONTRAST	Nov 27,2020	1
	CT CHEST - NO CONTRAST	Sep 15,2020	1
	CT CHEST CONTRAST	Apr 6,2020	1
	CT CHEST CONTRAST	Nov 20,2020	1
	CT CHEST CONTRAST	Oct 5,2020	1
	CT CHEST/ABDO/PELVIS CONTRAST	Jan 13,2021	1
	CT CHEST/ABDO/PELVIS CONTRAST	Jul 24,2020	1
	CT CHEST/ABDO/PELVIS CONTRAST	Mar 23,2021	1
	CT CHEST/ABDO/PELVIS CONTRAST	May 12,2020	1
	CT CHEST/ABDO/PELVIS CONTRAST	Nov 10,2020	1
	CT CHEST/NECK CONTRAST	Feb 26,2021	1
	CT CHEST/NECK CONTRAST	Sep 16,2020	1
CT SINUSES NO CONTRAST	Nov 27,2020	1	
Mamography	MAMMO-OBSP	Sep 2,2020	1
MRI	MRI - ABDOMEN - GADO	Jan 19,2021	1
	MRI - ABDOMEN - GADO	Mar 22,2021	1
	MRI - ABDOMEN - GADO	Mar 9,2021	1
	MRI - ABDOMEN-LTD - NO GAD	Sep 22,2020	1
	MRI - HEAD	Jul 30,2020	1
	MRI - HEAD WITH GADO	Jun 8,2020	1
	MRI - HEAD WITH GADO	Mar 15,2021	1
	MRI - HEAD WITH GADO	Oct 14,2020	1
	MRI - LEFT SHOULDER	Apr 17,2020	1
Pulmonary function test	PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST	Apr 6,2020	1
	PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST	Aug 6,2020	1
	PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST	Dec 8,2020	1
	PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST	Feb 5,2021	1
	PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST	Jan 13,2021	1
	PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST	Jul 6,2020	1
	PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST	Mar 31,2021	1
	PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST	May 1,2020	1
	PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST	Nov 3,2020	1
	PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST	Nov 4,2020	1
Ultrasound	PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST	Oct 20,2020	1
	PULMONARY FUNCTION TEST	Oct 6,2020	1
	Central Venous Access Flush	Nov 2,2020	1
	Central Venous Access Flush	Oct 13,2020	1
	Central Venous Access Flush	Oct 26,2020	1
	EOR US CAROTID 32 AT GEO	Nov 26,2020	1
	ULTRASOUND ABDOMEN	Aug 4,2020	1
	ULTRASOUND ABDOMEN	Jul 13,2020	1
	ULTRASOUND ABDOMEN	May 2,2020	1
	US ABDOMEN	Apr 6,2020	1
	US ABDOMEN	Aug 20,2020	1
	US ABDOMEN	Feb 16,2021	1
	US ABDOMEN	Jan 25,2021	1
	US ABDOMEN	Jun 9,2020	1
	US ABDOMEN	Mar 10,2021	1
	US ABDOMEN	Mar 3,2021	1
	US ABDOMEN	Sep 25,2020	1
	US ABDOMEN	Sep 3,2020	1
	US ABDOMINAL DOPPLER	Feb 22,2021	1
	US ABDOMINAL DOPPLER	Jul 31,2020	1
	US ARM VENOUS RIGHT - DVT	Jul 17,2020	1
	US ARM VENOUS RIGHT - DVT	Jun 2,2020	1
	US ARMS - VENOUS CLINIC PT	Feb 4,2021	1
	US BIOPHYSICAL PROFILE	Jul 14,2020	1
	US BIOPHYSICAL PROFILE	Jul 17,2020	1
	US BREAST LEFT	Aug 14,2020	1
	US CAROTID DOPPLER	Dec 15,2020	1
	US CAROTID DOPPLER	Dec 4,2020	1
	US CAROTID DOPPLER	May 1,2020	1
	US KIDNEYS AND BLADDER	Aug 26,2020	1
	US KIDNEYS AND BLADDER	Sep 10,2020	1
	US PELVIS	Dec 18,2020	1
Total			93