

IH Reference: 090-IH-2021-2022

August 19, 2021

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:

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

Response

The following responsive records are available by clicking this secure link (expires in 30 days):

<https://sftp.interiorhealth.ca/?u=FxxF&p=TG3a&path=/090-IH-2021-2022%20Appendix%20A.pdf>

- 090-IH-2021-2022 Appendix A

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.

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
Freedom of Information Department
Interior Health Authority



Title	IHA Medical Imaging Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death (FOI 090-IH-2021-2022)
Reporting Period	Fiscal Year 2020/21 (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021)
Requestor	Catharine Bruch, Freedom of Information Department, Interior Health Authority
Purpose/Request	To provide the number of cancelled Medical Imaging bookings due to death while on the Interior Health wait list.

Findings & Analysis

In Fiscal Year 2020/21, there were 668 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 (259 bookings), Ultrasound (136 bookings), and Echo (76 bookings). These top three Medical Imaging procedures account for 71% 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 668 bookings that were cancelled due to patient death, 29% (195 bookings) had been waiting over the priority wait time target for the Medical Imaging procedure as of the cancelled date. 51% of cancelled Medical Imaging bookings were assigned a Priority level 5 or Unknown, 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 2020/21

Medical Imaging Procedure Group	# of MI Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death
CT	259
Ultrasound	136
Echo	76
MRI	50
Nuclear Medicine	14
Interventional Radiology	40
X-Ray	66
Mammography	14
Other MI Procedures (<10 Total Cases)*	13
TOTAL	668
% of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death that were Waiting Over the Priority Target	29%

Note: *Due to patient confidentiality concerns 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 2020/21 (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021)
- 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:

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
Level 5 (P5)	Follow up	n/a
Unknown (Unk)	Unknown	n/a

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