



Ontario Health

September 8, 2021



Re: Freedom of Information Request (FOI) OH21-016

Dear 

I am writing regarding your access request OH21-016, made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ('the Act') that was received by our office on July 15, 2021 and clarified on July 20, 2021. The request is for the following general records:

Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for a surgery or procedure, a diagnostic scan, or a consultation with a specialist per fiscal year. Please limit records from fiscal year 2010-2011 to 2020-21.

In our email dated July 20, 2021, we clarified that Ontario Health is able to provide you with *aggregate numbers for the number of patients who died on a waiting list for surgery or a diagnostic scan broken out by fiscal year beginning with fiscal year 2010-2011 up to fiscal year 2020-2021.*

The Wait Time Information System (WTIS) does not collect data regarding cancelled procedures other than surgeries or diagnostic imaging or consultations with specialists, so no records for those components of your request exist at Ontario Health.

A search has been conducted and the responsive information has been reviewed. A decision has been made to grant access to the responsive information. The official responsible for making the access decision is Matthew Anderson, President and CEO, Ontario Health.

Section 57 of FIPPA requires fees to be charged for processing a request. The fee for processing your request was \$60. The actual fee breakdown is as follows:

- \$60 for 1 hour developing a computer program or other method of producing a record from machine readable record, \$15 spent for each 15 minutes by any person.

We are in receipt of your fee payment of \$60, received in our office on September 7, 2021. Please see the attached record, as produced in response to your access 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, 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 OH21-016 in any further correspondence with Ontario Health about this request.

Regards,

Beth Parton, PhD

FOI Lead

Legal, Privacy, Risk and Governance

Ontario Health

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Freedom of Information Access Request OH21-016

Responsive Records

Cancellations of Surgical Procedures and Diagnostic Imaging occur for a number of different reasons, including cancellation by patient, missed procedure/no show, procedures completed elsewhere, contraindications, and due to medical reasons. The charts below provide the data on only those procedures – surgical and MRI/CT – that were cancelled due to patient death.

Surgery

Between 4/1/2010 and 3/31/2021, there were 11,099 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.

Cancelled WTIS Surgery Procedures by Cancellation Reason- Patient Death											
Cancellation Reason	FY2010	FY2011	FY2012	FY2013	FY2014	FY2015	FY2016	FY2017	FY2018	FY2019	FY2020
Patient Death	928	891	1,076	924	1,036	940	1,045	1,138	1,039	986	1,096

Diagnostic Imaging

Cancelled WTIS CT Scans by Cancellation Reason- Patient Death											
CT Cancellation Reason	FY201 0-11	FY201 1-12	FY201 2-13	FY201 3-14	FY201 4-15	FY201 5-16	FY201 6-17	FY201 7-18	FY201 8-19	FY201 9-20	FY202 0-21
Patient Death						944	2,838	3,346	3,991	3,924	4,624

Cancelled WTIS MRI Scans by Cancellation Reason- Patient Death											
MRI Cancellation Reason	FY201 0-11	FY201 1-12	FY201 2-13	FY201 3-14	FY201 4-15	FY201 5-16	FY201 6-17	FY201 7-18	FY201 8-19	FY201 9-20	FY202 0-21
Patient Death						397	1,058	1,171	1,363	1,610	1,867

Note: Prior to 2015, information about MRI and CT scans was sent to the Wait Times Information System (WTIS) retrospectively, meaning that a record was sent to the WTIS only after the scan was performed. In 2015, MRI and CT information started to be collected prospectively, meaning that once a requisition was received at a facility, a wait list entry was created in WTIS.