

July 9, 2021

Re: Your request for access to information under Part 2 of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*: Our File Number PMH-2021-31.

On June 8, 2021, Prairie Mountain Health received your request for access to the following records:

- 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.
- Please provide the 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.

On June 8, 2021, we contacted you to clarify consultation with a specialist. We had clarified in a prior request that you were referring to clients that had died while waiting for a surgical consult prior to surgery being scheduled. You advised this would be the same interpretation for this request.

On, June 10, 2021, we transferred a portion of your request to Shared Health, specifically, the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for a diagnostic scan in fiscal year 2020/2021, because this information would be in the custody and control of that public body.

I am pleased to inform you that your request for access has been granted in part. Please see the attached, which shows the number of patients that have died while on a waiting list for a surgical procedure, the type of procedure, decision date and the scheduled and cancellation date of the procedure in PMH in fiscal year 2020/2021. Please use caution when interpreting the information under the scheduled date for procedure and date of cancellation due to death columns. In some cases, the scheduled procedure date was cancelled prior to death due to other patient specific reasons. The patient was then placed back on the waiting list for the surgical procedure and the surgery date was not rescheduled prior to patient death.

The national benchmark for cataract surgery is within 16 weeks.

In some facilities in PMH, the scheduled date for the procedure is not collected and/or retained in the electronic surgical information system. This information may be found in the client's health record; however, this would require a manual search and would be deemed an unreasonable invasion of the client's personal health information. Your request for the type of procedure is also refused where the specific type or the low numbers

of the procedure, along with details of dates, may identify a patient whose personal health information was collected for purposes of provision of health care. This information falls within the following exceptions to disclosure in the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

17(1) The head of a public body shall refuse to disclose personal information to an applicant if the disclosure would be an unreasonable invasion of a third party's privacy.

17(2) A disclosure of personal information about a third party is deemed to be an unreasonable invasion of the third party's privacy if,

(a) The personal information is personal health information.

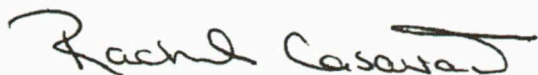
The information being provided is based on entry into an electronic surgical information system. The date the patient was referred to a specialist is not captured in this system. Additionally, the number of patients that died while waiting for a surgical consultation with a specialist in fiscal year 2020/2021 does not exist as PMH does not collect this data. This data may exist with the physician's office where the surgical consultations occur which does not fall under the purview of PMH. Consequently, these records do not exist in the manner in which you requested. Accordingly, your request for access to this information is refused under paragraph 12(1)(c)(i) of *The Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

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

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

If you have any questions, please contact me at 204-622-4155.

Sincerely,



Rachel Casavant
Access and Privacy Coordinator - Prairie Mountain Health
204-622-4155

RC/mp

**Number of Patients that have Died While on a Waiting List for a Surgical Procedure
Fiscal Year 2020/2021**

Number of Patients	Type of Procedure	Decision Date	Scheduled Date for Procedure	Date of Cancellation due to Death
1	17(1); 17(2)(a)	December 3, 2019	No surgery date scheduled	September 16, 2020
2	17(1); 17(2)(a)	August 9, 2019	No surgery date scheduled	August 18, 2020
3	17(1); 17(2)(a)	March 5, 2020	No surgery date scheduled	June 18, 2020
4	17(1); 17(2)(a)	February 29, 2020	March 19, 2020	May 25, 2020
5	17(1); 17(2)(a)	March 30, 2020	No surgery date scheduled	August 13, 2020
6	17(1); 17(2)(a)	July 13, 2020	October 13, 2020	October 28, 2020
7	17(1); 17(2)(a)	July 10, 2020	August 26, 2020	August 10, 2020
8	17(1); 17(2)(a)	September 30, 2019	No surgery date scheduled	November 18, 2020
9	17(1); 17(2)(a)	October 25, 2019	No surgery date scheduled	October 27, 2020
10	17(1); 17(2)(a)	November 8, 2020	No surgery date scheduled	January 12, 2021
11	17(1); 17(2)(a)	December 9, 2019	No surgery date scheduled	September 1, 2020
12	17(1); 17(2)(a)	July 20, 2020	No surgery date scheduled	August 28, 2020
13	17(1); 17(2)(a)	September 10, 2019	No surgery date scheduled	May 11, 2020
14	Cataract	May 8, 2019	No surgery date scheduled	September 30, 2020
15	Cataract	September 24, 2019	Not collected/retained	August 10, 2020
16	Cataract	November 22, 2019	No surgery date scheduled	August 10, 2020
17	Cataract	November 19, 2019	Not collected/retained	August 28, 2020
18	Cataract	December 19, 2019	Not collected/retained	October 6, 2020
19	Cataract	November 23, 2019	No surgery date scheduled	October 13, 2020
20	Cataract	October 29, 2018	February 13, 2019	October 25, 2020
21	Cataract	November 10, 2020	Not collected/retained	January 6, 2021
22	Cataract	November 10, 2020	No surgery date scheduled	February 19, 2021
23	17(1); 17(2)(a)	February 2, 2021	No surgery date scheduled	March 11, 2021
24	17(1); 17(2)(a)	December 23, 2020	January 6, 2021	January 3, 2021