

July 20, 2021



RE: Freedom of Information Request # 21-07

I am writing regarding your access request under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“FIPPA”) for the following:

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.*
2. *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.*
3. *Please also note the government's target time for providing the procedure in question.*

Please refer to the itemized responses below for the data that is responsive to your request.

Response

1. **Number of Patients:** We have data of 6 patients on a waiting list for a surgical procedure during the fiscal year 2020-21, for whom “patient death” was identified as the reason the procedure was no longer required.

Please understand that this data is un-validated and may not be accurate, complete or reliable. It is reflective of the number of cases in the fiscal year that were listed for surgery, where it was learned that the patient died and “patient death” was entered for the reason for closing the wait list entry in a provincial data system for surgical wait times. We do not have the ability to further validate the data or its level of accuracy, completeness or reliability.

This data source is an administrative system and is not meant to capture clinical information about patients. No inferences should be drawn between the cause/reason for death and the scheduled surgery or procedure.

2. **Procedure and Case Information:** The procedures for the 6 patients are within the following surgical areas:
 - Gynaecologic Surgery – 1 patient
 - Oncology Procedures – 2 patients
 - Ophthalmic Surgery – 3 patients



Given the potential for individual patient identification due to the very small data set, access to data on the specific surgical procedure(s), referral date and decision date is denied on the basis of FIPPA section 21(Personal Privacy) and/or section 8 of the *Personal Health Information Protection Act*.

For *date of the procedure* and *date of cancellation*, we do not have data that is responsive to your request.

3. **Government's Target Time for Procedure:** Government target times for surgical procedures are available here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/wait-times-ontario>

You may request the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this decision. The Commissioner can be reached at:

Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario
1400 - 2 Bloor Street East
Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1A8

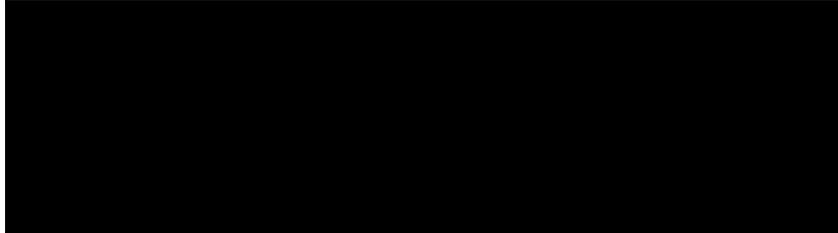
The appeal fee is \$25.00, payable by cheque or money order to the Minister of Finance and must be included with your correspondence. Please note that you have 30 days from the receipt of this letter to request a review by the Commissioner.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (416) 586-4800 ext. 5886. Please refer to the above-referenced access request number in any further correspondence.

Yours very truly,

Paula Kocsis

July 20, 2021



RE: Freedom of Information Request # 21-06

I am writing regarding your access request under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“FIPPA”) for the following:

1. *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.*
2. *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.*
3. *Please also note the government's target time for providing the procedure in question.*

Please refer to the itemized responses below for the data that is responsive to your request.

Response

Please understand that the data below is un-validated and may not be accurate, complete or reliable. It is reflective of the number of cases in the fiscal year that were listed for an outpatient diagnostic scan or surgical consult, where it was learned that the patient died before the scheduled date for the diagnostic scan/consult. It only captures cases where this information was reflected in the hospital's data system for diagnostic scans and a provincial data system for surgical wait times. We do not have the ability to further validate the data or its level of accuracy, completeness or reliability. No inferences should be drawn between the cause/reason for death and the scheduled diagnostic scan or specialist consultation.

1. Number of Patients:

(A) Diagnostic Scan – We do not have record of any patients on a waiting list for a diagnostic scan during the fiscal year 2020-21, for whom “patient death” was identified as having occurred between the date that the diagnostic scan was scheduled and the scheduled date for the diagnostic scan.

We do not have information relating to diagnostic scans for hospital in-patients, as they are not ‘wait-listed’ in this manner.

(B) Consultation with Specialist – We have record of two patients on a waiting list for a surgical specialist consult during the fiscal year 2020-21, for whom “patient death” was identified as having occurred between the date that the consult was scheduled and the scheduled date for the consult.

We do not have information relating to specialist consults that fall outside of surgery, as this information is not stored in a way that can be queried.

2. **Procedure and Case Information:** The specialist consults for the two patients were related to the following surgical areas:
- Ophthalmology – 1 patient
 - Plastic/reconstructive surgery – 1 patient

Given the potential for individual patient identification due to the very small data set, access to additional data related to the consults is denied on the basis of FIPPA section 21 (Personal Privacy) and/or section 8 of the Personal Health Information Protection Act.

For *date of the procedure* and *date of cancellation*, we do not have data that is responsive to your request.

3. **Government’s Target Time for Services:** Government target times for procedures are available here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/wait-times-ontario>

You may request the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this decision. The Commissioner can be reached at:

Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario
1400 - 2 Bloor Street East
Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1A8

The appeal fee is \$25.00, payable by cheque or money order to the Minister of Finance and must be included with your correspondence. Please note that you have 30 days from the receipt of this letter to request a review by the Commissioner.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (416) 586-4800 ext. 5886. Please refer to the above-referenced access request number in any further correspondence.

Yours very truly,

Paula Kocsis