



IH Reference: 075-IH-2022-2023

July 27, 2022



**Re: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act)**

**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 surgery or a procedure in fiscal year 2021-22.*

*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)*

**Response**

The following responsive records are available by clicking this secure link (expires in 25 days):

- <https://sftp.interiorhealth.ca/?u=UNv4&p=Bcrg&path=/075%20IH-%202022-2023%20Appendix%20A.pdf>
- 075-IH-2022-2023 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](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,

Angela  
Freedom of Information Department  
Interior Health Authority

We recognize and acknowledge that we are collectively gathered on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the seven Interior Region First Nations, where we live, learn, collaborate, and work together. This region is also home to 15 Chartered Métis Communities. It is with humility that we continue to strengthen our relationships with First Nation, Métis, and Inuit peoples across the Interior.

**REPORTING PERIOD:** Fiscal Year 2021/22 (April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022)

**PURPOSE:** To provide the number of patients that cancelled surgery due to death while on the Interior Health wait list for elective surgery by procedure type.

**REQUESTOR:** Catharine Bruch, Freedom of Information Department, IHA

**FINDINGS & ANALYSIS:**

In Fiscal Year 2021/22, there were 224 booking records cancelled and removed from the Interior Health Authority’s (IHA) waitlist due to patient death, representing 3.1% of all cancelled bookings in IHA (7,275 total cancelled bookings). There were 65 various types of procedures cancelled due to patient death, Cataracts topped the list with 68 (30%) bookings cancelled due to patient death, followed by Arthroplasty Knee Replacements with 19 (8%) cancelled bookings, Arthroplasty Hip Replacements 13 (6%) cancelled bookings, Transurethral Resection Prostate 12 (5%) cancelled bookings, and Insertion/Removal Stents 12 (5%) cancelled bookings.

The wait time for surgery starts the day the booking form is received at an Interior Health hospital Booking Office to the procedure date (or removal from the waitlist), minus unavailable time reported on the booking record. Of the 224 bookings that were cancelled due to patient death, 46% (103 bookings) had been waiting over the Benchmark wait time target for surgery at the date of patient death. Due to low patient volumes, specific case information and target times have been excluded.

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 surgery and patient death.

**TABLE 1: Interior Health number of Booking Records cancelled due to Patient Death by Procedure Group, Fiscal Year 2021/22**

Procedure Group	# of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death
Cataract Extraction & Intraocular Lens (IOL) Implant	68
Arthroplasty Knee Replacement	19
Arthroplasty Hip Replacement	13
Transurethral Resection Prostate	12
Insertion/Removal Stents	12
Other Surgical Procedures (<10 Total Cases)*	100
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>224</b>

% of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death that were Waiting Over the Benchmark Wait Time Target 46%

Note: \*Due to patient confidentiality concerns all surgical volumes <10 cases are suppressed.

**DATA NOTES & LIMITATIONS:**

- Data is based on primary procedure only.
- Data includes elective OR procedures only, both daycare and inpatient cases.
- The data excludes non-OR procedures (z. procedures).
- Data includes only booking records with a cancellation date within Fiscal Year 2021/22 (April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022)
- Wait times are calculated from the booking form received date to the patient expiry date (Patient date of death), excluding patient unavailable dates. Unavailable time is documented dates that the patient is unavailable for surgery due to personal reasons (i.e. out-of-country, not ready, etc.), or for medical reasons.
- The Benchmark wait time targets are associated with the adult/pediatric diagnosis prioritization code provided on the surgical booking request form.
- Procedure Group = Surgical Patient Registry (SPR) Procedure Group
- COVID-19 Caveat for Reports:
  - On March 16, 2020, a public health emergency was declared in British Columbia due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. As hospitals prepared for a potential surge in COVID-19 hospitalizations in spring 2020, Interior Health operated surgical services under Outbreak Response Phase 2, and non-urgent surgical services were postponed from March 16 to May 18, 2020. Non-urgent surgical services resumed as of May 19, 2020 in accordance with the MOH Surgical Renewal Plan. (2019/20 Surgical Volume Impacts)
  - Additionally, Wildfire and COVID resurgence response planning throughout 2021 have affected the volume, postponement, and cancellation data. (2020/21 & 2021/22 Surgical Volume Impacts)
- Due to patient confidentiality concerns all surgical volumes <10 cases are suppressed.

Appendix: N/A  
Data Source: Picis OR Manager via Surgical Services2 Universe, IH Data Warehouse  
Report Author: Robyn Tremblay, Consultant, Data & Analytics  
Date Prepared: 27/06/2022