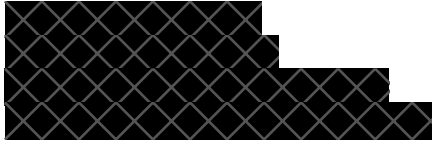


November 10, 2023

Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.



Reference Number: 2023-G-313

Dear Mrs. Schulz:

Re: *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*
Final Response to Request for Information

I am writing in response to your request for access to information under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy (FOIP) Act*.

Specifically, your request reads as follows:

Please provide the most recent data on the number of patients in the province (or best estimate) who are:

- Currently on a waiting list or waiting to be placed on a waiting list for surgery or a procedure*
- Currently on a waiting list or waiting to be placed on a waiting list for a diagnostic scan*
- Currently on a waiting list or waiting to be placed on a waiting list for an appointment with a specialist*

Please be sure to note the date the data was compiled. (Date Range for Record Search: From 10/11/2023 To 10/12/2023)

Please note that nothing in this correspondence (or its attachments) constitutes a waiver of any privilege.

If not otherwise stated the data was compiled on October 18, 2023. As you have requested the most recent data please be mindful of each of the notes that provide context to the available information that AHS has retrieved. You are also encouraged to make use of the ASI metrics published on this website:

https://healthanalytics.alberta.ca/SASVisualAnalytics/?reportUri=%2Freports%2Freports%2Fd0dd62a3-001d-443c-a395-9431b63f142b§ionIndex=0&sso_guest=true&reportViewOnly=true&reportContextBar=false&sas-welcome=false

We are pleased to provide access to the records you requested; a copy of the records are enclosed.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the processing of your request, please contact us at IAS@ahs.ca.

Please note that under section 65 of the *FOIP Act*, you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta to review any decision made on your request. To request a review, you must complete and deliver a *Request for Review* form within 60 days from the date of this notice to:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
#410, 9925 – 109 Street NW
Edmonton, AB
T5K 2J8

The form is available on the Commissioners web site www.oipc.ab.ca or you can call 1-888-878-4044 (in Edmonton, call 780-422-6860) to request a copy of the form.

If you wish to request a review, please provide the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) with the following information:

1. A copy of this letter.
2. A copy of your original request form that you sent to Alberta Health Services.
3. A completed OIPC Request for Review Form.

Sincerely,

Information Access Services
Legal & Privacy, Alberta Health Services
Seventh Street Plaza
5th Floor, North Tower
10030 – 107 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5J 3E4

Enclosures: Record package – 4 pages

2023-G-313

Please provide the most recent data on the # of patients in the province (or best estimation) who are currently on a waiting list or waiting to be placed on a wait list for a) surgery or procedure, (b) diagnostic scan, (c) appt. w/a specialist. Please be sure to note the date that the data was compiled.

Time Period: Current as of Oct. 16, 2023

The total number of cases* on the surgery waitlist as of Oct 16, 2023 is **76475**

Note:

- Waitlist provided based on data as of Monday Oct 16, 2023

**- Waitlist is reported as number of cases (instead of number of patients). A person may be on waitlist for more than one case (e.g. two cataract surgeries; a hernia and a hip replacement, etc.)*

- Includes cases where a booking request is submitted to be completed in a Main OR setting at an Acute Care hospital (based on OR system data extract)

- Includes cases where surgery is planned at a CSF (Chartered Surgical Facility) under contract to AHS (as entered into CSFIS system)

- Excludes Minor Procedure and Clinic settings; excludes diagnostic endoscopy procedures (e.g. Gastroscopy, Colonoscopy), planned C-Section, and private pay cases.

- Excludes cases presumed completed at a CSF pending receipt of final record update (based on scheduled date < most recent waitlist report date)

- Waiting cases are not available for smaller sites in the North and South Zone (estimated to represent approximately 3% of provincial activity. Waitlist proportion may differ). These sites will be live with Connect Care OR Module in November 2023 and included in waitlist reporting thereafter.

CT	# of Pts. Waiting
Priority 1	1,271
Priority 2	12,615
Priority 3	11,307
Priority 4	24,276
Total	49,469

MRI	# of Pts. Waiting
Priority 1	678
Priority 2	15,814
Priority 3	31,878
Priority 4	20,048
Total	68,418

Notes:

Waitlist as at September 30, 2023

Patients on the waitlist information is from Meditech and Connect Care.

During the transitioning phases from zonal Radiology Information System to Connect Care, regular updates are made.

Outsource patients information not included.

New counting methodologies introduced due to Connect Care's protocol priority updates.

Connect Care DI completely launched in November 2023

Total Count: 225,122 Referrals Waiting

- 172,213 referrals are on work queues (awaiting triage, initial scheduling, or in some cases rescheduling).
- 52,909 referrals are scheduled for future appointments that have not yet occurred.

Limitations to Note

- **Comparability to Past (Important):** These figures should not be compared to counts provided in the past (e.g. 2022). This is because there are more departments using Connect Care now, which previously would not have been included in the counts.
- Only includes clinics that have gone live with Connect Care, and are using the referrals module.
- Does not include referrals waiting for follow-up or treatment after an initial appointment. In Connect Care, referrals normally close and exit this count as soon as they complete their initial consult or appointment.
- Does not include non-AHS providers and clinics, which is a massive chunk of specialty care in Alberta.
- Does not include data from legacy systems, due to limitations with those systems in capturing referral data.
- Does not include AHS care that is paper-based or otherwise not using enterprise systems to record referrals.
- Includes all types of specialty care providers, not just specialist physicians. This may mean some referrals are for therapists, nurses, social workers, counselors, etc. as well as specialist physicians (we do not know the provider type while the referral is waitlisted).