



Privacy Office; Legal Services
1-031 Centennial Building
1276 South Park Street
Halifax, NS B3H 2Y9
foipop@nshealth.ca

November 15, 2023
Kristen Schulz



Dear Kristen:

Re: Partial Access – OUR FILE#-NSHA-2023-243

On October 17, 2023, Nova Scotia Health (NSH) received your request under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPOP Act)*.

We understand your application to be for a copy of the following:

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 an appointment with a specialist*

Please be sure to note the date the data was compiled.

Please find a copy of the records located in response to your request.

We have withheld figures fewer than five to protect the privacy of reasonably identifiable individuals under section 20(1) of the *FOIPOP Act*. Section 20(1) of the *FOIPOP Act* states **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 personal privacy.**

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

You have the right to seek a review with the Review Officer within 60 days of receiving this decision. Complete details of the process are outlined on the website of the Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner: <https://foipop.ns.ca/request-a-review>.

Sincerely,

Katie Smith
Freedom of Information Officer
Nova Scotia Health Authority
Halifax, Nova Scotia

NSHA Surgical Waitlist (excluding Endoscopy and Cystoscopy)

Monthly (as of last day of month), by Zone

Source: PAR-NS Database, via NSHA Performance & Analytics

Provided on: October 31st, 2023

Year	Month	Central	Eastern	Northern	Western	Grand Total
2022	January	12,735	3,087	2,554	4,920	23,296
	February	13,183	3,134	2,985	5,311	24,613
	March	13,139	3,169	2,908	5,218	24,434
	April	12,954	3,143	2,908	5,468	24,473
	May	12,668	3,352	2,807	5,654	24,481
	June	12,282	3,364	2,788	5,572	24,006
	July	12,377	3,313	2,677	5,595	23,962
	August	12,368	3,562	2,677	5,398	24,005
	September	11,577	3,588	2,633	5,500	23,298
	October	11,007	3,404	2,573	5,651	22,635
	November	10,983	3,269	2,467	5,561	22,280
	December	10,905	3,063	2,505	5,224	21,697
2023	January	10,855	3,098	2,414	5,022	21,389
	February	10,806	2,836	2,297	4,933	20,872
	March	11,011	3,001	2,142	4,500	20,654
	April	11,157	2,983	1,966	4,147	20,253
	May	11,167	2,990	1,955	3,999	20,111
	June	11,001	3,079	1,915	3,962	19,957
	July	11,368	2,997	1,893	3,775	20,033
	August	11,722	3,093	1,780	3,861	20,456
	September	11,773	2,975	1,753	3,726	20,227
	October	11,740	2,981	1,649	3,796	20,116

Note:

1. This count includes patients at Halifax Vision Surgical Centre and Scotia Surgery Services.
2. The data excludes Cystoscopy & Endoscopy, but it includes Surgical activity only.

This is not the wait list for ambulatory care procedures such as those completed by a person's family physician in a clinic location.

Nova Scotia Health is focussed on increasing surgical volumes year-over-year to improve access and achieve a more manageable waitlist that allows surgeries to be reliably delivered within targets.

As part these efforts, attention has been given to reviewing waitlists to ensure they reflect the true demand for surgical care - information that is needed to for planning and to prioritize access to care.

Through collaboration with surgeons' office and following-up with wait listed patients, teams have been able to confirm that many patients no longer require surgery.

This, combined with increased surgical volumes, has allowed the waitlist to decrease from 23,296 patients in January of 2022 to 20,116 as of October 2023. Note: The waitlist is a point in time and varies based on patients added to and removed from the waitlist.

There can be many reasons why patients are removed from our lists, including the patient changing their mind, no longer requiring surgery, illness, duplicate listings, or the surgery already being completed.

Data Source: PHS
 Database: DB10011 *DOMPHS
 Data Pull: As of October 10, 2023
 Prepared By: Jake Salcedo

Note: Only new appointments in CZ are in the list

Division	Priority Type	SCHEDULED	WAIT LIST
Cardiology	Non-Urgent	1947	3247
	Other	1519	1663
	Semi-Urgent	227	168
	Urgent	23	24
Clinical Dermatology & Cutaneous Science	Non-Urgent	15	<5
	Routine 2	80	196
	Routine1	448	1995
	Semi-Urgent1	77	<5
	Semi-Urgent2	907	1395
	Urgent	<5	0
Digestive Care	Others	302	236
	Emergent	14	130
	Non-Urgent	121	2419
	Semi-Urgent	231	4872
	Urgent	18	17
Endoscopy	Other	331	5050
Endocrinology	Non-Urgent	470	141
	Semi-Urgent	29	5
	Urgent	<5	<5
General Internal Medicine	Non-Urgent	158	558
	Semi-Urgent	62	5
	Urgent	8	6
Geriatric Medicine	Non-Urgent	278	466
	Semi-Urgent	<5	0
	Urgent	<5	<5
Infectious Diseases	Non-Urgent	53	0
	Other	0	104
	Semi-Urgent	50	121
Neurology	Non-Urgent	213	1503
	Non-Urgent 2	0	79
	Other	415	1524
	Semi-Urgent	37	314
	Urgent	43	115
Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation	Non-Urgent	20	131
	Other	0	132
	Semi-Urgent	73	102
Respirology	Non-Urgent	28	369
	Semi-Urgent	32	74
	Urgent	<5	<5
Rheumatology	Others	0	69
	Non-Urgent	<5	227
	Semi-Urgent	22	986
	Urgent	184	539