

July 31, 2022

**SENT VIA EMAIL**



**Access Request: FOI 05-23**

Dear Ms. Schulz:

This letter is further to your request for access to records in the custody or control of Hamilton Health Sciences ("HHS") made under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (hereafter, '*the Act*').

**1. Scope of the request**

*Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for surgery or a procedure in fiscal year 2022-23. Please break the data out by procedure, case information, 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 other hospitals/health regions were able to identify such cases as they track the reason for cancelled operations.)*

*Timeframe 2022/04/01 – 2023/03/31*

**2. Requested records which do not exist – N/A**

**3. Disclosure – Full disclosure – please see attached documents**

**4. Fees – Thank you for your payment of \$450**

**5. Appeal**

You may appeal the following to the Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario by writing to the Commissioner's Office within thirty days of this notice of HHS's decision. More information about the requirements to appeal decisions under *the Act* is available on the Commissioner's website ([www.ipc.on.ca](http://www.ipc.on.ca)).

The Commissioner can be reached at:

Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario  
2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400  
Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1A8, Canada  
Telephone: Toronto Area (416/local 905): (416)326-333  
Long Distance: 1(800) 387-0073 (within Ontario)  
TDD/TTY: (416) 325-7539  
Fax: (416) 325-9195



If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the HHS Privacy and Freedom of Information Office at 905-521-2100, Ext. 75126.

Please refer to request number FOI 05-23 for any future inquiries or correspondence pertaining to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. A. O.', is written above the typed name.

Privacy and Freedom of Information Office  
Hamilton Health Sciences – King West  
P.O. Box 2000, Hamilton, ON L8N 3Z5  
Tel: 905-521-2100 Ext. 75126  
Fax: 905-577-8474

1. Scope of the request

We understand the request to include:

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*Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for surgery or a procedure in fiscal year 2022-23.  
Please break the data out by procedure, case information, 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 other hospitals/health regions were able to identify such cases as they track the reason for cancelled operations.)*

2. Disclosure –

Operating Room Cases - Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Analysis

For the period of April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023, Hamilton Health Sciences (HHS) completed a total of a total of 14,463 elective surgeries. Additional procedures would have also been completed in HHS procedure rooms, such as cardiac investigation units and the electrophysiology lab. As these procedures are either non-surgical in nature, or not reportable to Ontario Health or Cor Health, they are not included in this disclosure as they are not responsive to the request.

In addition, this analysis does not include emergency surgeries or trauma-related surgeries as these patients are not placed on the waitlist.

Please note, the quality of the data contained in this report is completely dependent on the quality of the data entered at the time the patient encounters the facility.

During the relevant fiscal year time frame, 86 patients were removed from the waitlist with the removal reason "deceased." This is a rate of 0.595% for a one year period.

For Non-Cardiac Surgery patients

- 78 non-cardiac surgery patients were removed from the waitlist with the removal reason "deceased."
- 6 (8%) had patient related reasons that added to their wait.
- 1% of patients elected to defer their surgery date.
- 1% of patients were waiting for other medical procedures to be performed prior to their waiting procedure or waiting a predetermined interval period.
- 5% of patients had a change in their medical condition precluding their ability to proceed with surgery.

72 patients who died while on the waitlist had no patient related reasons noted for their wait.

- 0 patients had system delays (hospital related resource delays) were noted for their wait.

The services which saw greater than 5 deaths on their wait lists from April 1, 2022 to March 31, 2023 were General, Oncology Treatment, Neurosurgery, Orthopedic, Urology, and Vascular

General Surgery completed 1189 cases with 8 (1%) patients removed from wait list with the removal reason 'deceased.'

Oncology Treatment completed 2,246 cases with 17 (0.75%) patients removed from wait list with the removal reason 'deceased.'

Neurosurgery completed 369 cases with 7 (2%) patients removed from wait list with the removal reason 'deceased.'

Orthopedic Surgery completed 3901 cases with 12 (0.31%) patients removed from wait list with the removal reason 'deceased.'

Urology Surgery completed 627 cases with 10 (1.5%) patients removed from wait list with the removal reason 'deceased.'

Vascular Surgery completed 708 elective cases with 12 (1.7%) patients removed from wait list with the removal reason 'deceased.'

For Cardiac Surgery Patients

8 cardiac surgery patients were removed from the waitlist with the removal reason "deceased."

- No patient related delay reasons or system delays (hospital related resource delays) were noted for this cardiac surgery patient.

Please see additional PDF attachments containing additional information. A description of the acronyms used in the attached spreadsheets is below.

Acronym Meanings:

DA	Dates Affecting Readiness to Treat
DA	Dates Affecting Readiness to Consult
CA	Coronary Artery Bypass Graft

"Cancellation Date" = date HHS became aware of the patient death. Often this occurs through appointment follow up for surgical planning purposes.

Maximum government timelines are based on a prioritization schedule. A patient's priority ranking can fluctuate during the time they are waitlisted for their procedure in the event of a health decline. As such, we are unable to provide a maximum number.

For Ontario Health and Cor Health, the timeframe between referral and procedure/cancellation covers two wait time periods Wait 1 and Wait 2. Therefore, it is important to consider both waiting periods and related recommended wait times.

Wait 1 - is the time waiting between referral date to surgeon and consultation date.

Wait 2 - is the time waiting between decision to treat (which may or may not equal the consultation date) and the procedure date/cancellation date.

Every procedure has varying recommended wait periods allowed for Wait 1 and Wait 2 as per Ontario Health and Cor Health.

The surgeon is responsible for choosing the Wait 1 and Wait 2 priority for each patient.

There are 1 of 4 choices available. These choices are shown in the coloured coded columns.

Note that Priority 1 are considered emergent patients

Wait 1 applies to new referrals only

Wait 1 = NA = Recurring or follow up patient

Referral Date = NA = Patient was a follow up patient/existing patient.

Procedure date = NA = Patient was not given a surgery date.

Patient Death is a removal reason from the wait list and does not imply that the death is related to the waiting procedure.

Recommended wait time is an establish wait time set by Ontario Health and Cor Health (for cardiac surgeries)

Wait 1 and Wait 2 Priority noted for each patient represents their priority status at time of removal from wait list. It is not reflective of priority changes that may have occurred throughout the wait.

**Patient Related Delay Reasons:**

Pre-defined interval follow up - represents a delay where the patient must recover, mature (in the case of pediatric patients) before proceeding with the surgery.

Change in medical condition/patient not fit for surgery/not medically ready, further work up required

represents delays due to the patient's condition which precludes proceeding with surgery.

Patient chooses to defer - represents instances where the patient had declined the surgery date provided and requests surgery delay.

Waiting for other procedure - represents delays where the surgery in question cannot proceed until another procedure/treatment is completed beforehand.

Service Area	Wait 1 Priority Level	Wait 2 Priority Level	Combined Wait 1+2 = Days allowed waiting between referral to procedure date/ cancellation	Recommended Wait 1 Time in Days for Procedure				Recommended Wait 2 Time in Days for Procedure				Referral Date	Scheduled Procedure Date	Procedure No Longer Required Reason	Cancellation Date	Wait 1 (Dates Affecting Readiness to Consult) Reasons	Wait 2 (Dates Affecting Readiness to Treat) Reasons
				Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4	Priority 1	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4						
Orthopaedic Surgery - Ankle	2	2	72	7	30	90	182	7	42	84	182	04/05/2022	04/14/2022	Patient Death	4/11/2022		
Cardiac Surgery - Valve Only	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	6/4/2022	NA	Patient Death	4/30/2022		
Urologic Surgery - Benign Bladder Surgery	NA	2	28	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	5/3/2022		
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery - Delayed Breast Cancer Reconstruction	4	4	364	7	30	90	182	1	28	56	182	08/22/2014	NA	Patient Death	5/5/2022		Change in Medical Status
Urologic Surgery - Benign Bladder Surgery	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	5/16/2022		
Oncology Procedures - Carcinoma	2	2	24	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	03/08/2022	05/27/2022	Patient Death	5/17/2022		Other Surgical Procedure
Cardiac Surgery -Aortic Operation	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	30/03/2022	NA	Patient Death	5/26/2022		
Orthopaedic Surgery - Spine	NA	2	7	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	7	56	182	NA	05/10/2022	Patient Death	6/4/2022		
Urologic Surgery - Urethral Surgery	NA	3	84	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	8/7/2022		
Oncology Procedures - Gynaecological	NA	3	28	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	NA	NA	Patient Death	6/15/2022		
Oncology Procedures - Colorectal	3	3	49	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	05/03/2022	05/24/2022	Patient Death	6/17/2022		Change in Medical Status
Vascular Surgery - Non-Bypass Arterial Surgery	NA	3	56	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	6/21/2022		
Neurosurgery - Spinal Surgery	NA	3	56	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	7	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	6/29/2022		
Oncology Procedures - Genitourinary	NA	3	28	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	NA	06/02/2022	Patient Death	6/29/2022		
Neurosurgery - Cranioplasty	3	3	146	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	7	56	182	12/02/2021	NA	Patient Death	6/29/2022		
Orthopaedic Surgery - Hip - Primary Total Joint Replacement	3	3	174	7	30	90	182	7	42	84	182	04/16/2021	NA	Patient Death	6/30/2022		
Vascular Surgery - Non-Bypass Arterial Surgery	NA	2	14	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	7/3/2022		
Cardiac Surgery - CABG	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	8/7/2022	NA	Patient Death	7/9/2022		
Vascular Surgery - Non-Bypass Arterial Surgery	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	56	182	NA	04/25/2022	Patient Death	7/15/2022		
Oncology Procedures - Gynaecological	NA	4	84	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	NA	09/09/2022	Patient Death	7/20/2022		
General Surgery - Umbilical Hernia	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	7/22/2022		
General Surgery - Gallbladder	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	8/2/2022		
Orthopaedic Surgery - Spine	NA	3	56	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	7	56	182	NA	07/23/2021	Patient Death	8/4/2022		
Orthopaedic Surgery - Knee - Primary Total Joint Replacement	NA	3	84	7	30	90	182	7	42	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	8/8/2022		
Cardiac Surgery - CABG	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	18/07/2022	NA	Patient Death	8/8/2022		
Urologic Surgery - Benign Bladder Surgery	NA	2	28	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	NA	02/11/2022	Patient Death	8/15/2022		
Oncology Procedures - Sarcoma	NA	3	28	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	NA	NA	Patient Death	8/18/2022		
Oncology Procedures - Gynaecological	3	3	49	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	06/30/2022	NA	Patient Death	8/24/2022		
Urologic Surgery - Kidney/Renal Pelvis/Ureter	NA	3	84	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	8/24/2022		
Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery - Lower Extremity Surgery	4	4	364	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	21	42	182	09/01/2020	NA	Patient Death	8/29/2022		
Urologic Surgery - Kidney/Renal Pelvis/Ureter	NA	2	28	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	8/31/2022		
Orthopaedic Surgery - Hip - Primary Total Joint Replacement	4	4	364	7	30	90	182	7	42	84	182	11/23/2021	NA	Patient Death	9/8/2022		
Vascular Surgery - Non-Bypass Arterial Surgery	NA	3	56	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	56	182	NA	05/31/2022	Patient Death	9/8/2022		
Oncology Procedures - Genitourinary	3	2	35	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	07/18/2022	NA	Patient Death	9/14/2022		
Urologic Surgery - Benign Bladder Surgery	NA	2	28	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	9/16/2022		
Vascular Surgery - Arterial Bypass Surgery	NA	3	56	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	9/18/2022		
Vascular Surgery - Arterial Bypass Surgery	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	9/26/2022		
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dentistry - Dental Procedure	NA	4	182	7	30	90	182	1	14	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	9/28/2022		
Neurosurgery - Benign Tumour Removal Surgery	NA	3	56	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	7	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	10/4/2022		
Paediatric Otolaryngic Surgery - Upper Airway Surgery	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	21	42	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	10/8/2022		
Oncology Procedures - Genitourinary	NA	2	14	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	NA	NA	Patient Death	10/16/2022		
Vascular Surgery - Amputation Surgery	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	10/17/2022		
Cardiac Surgery - Valve Only	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	7/6/2022	NA	Patient Death	10/22/2022		
Orthopaedic Surgery - Ankle	NA	3	84	7	30	90	182	7	42	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	10/27/2022		
General Surgery - Anorectal Surgery	4	4	364	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	10/31/2018	05/09/2019	Patient Death	10/27/2022		Patient Chooses to Defer
Neurosurgery - Spinal Surgery	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	7	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	10/28/2022		
General Surgery - Digestive System Surgery	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	11/1/2022		
Orthopaedic Surgery - Knee - Primary Total Joint Replacement	4	4	364	7	30	90	182	7	42	84	182	11/09/2021	NA	Patient Death	11/9/2022		
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery - Peripheral Nerve Surgery	3	3	174	7	30	90	182	1	28	56	182	02/20/2020	NA	Patient Death	11/10/2022		

Urologic Surgery - Penile Surgery	4	4	364	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	12/08/2020	NA	Patient Death	11/17/2022		
Vascular Surgery - Arterial Bypass Surgery	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	56	182	NA	01/12/2022	Patient Death	11/21/2022		
Oncology Procedures - Hepatopancreatobiliary	3	2	35	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	08/29/2022	10/31/2022	Patient Death	11/21/2022		
Oncology Procedures - Central Nervous System	2	2	24	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	04/26/2022	NA	Patient Death	12/2/2022		
Neurosurgery - Spinal Surgery	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	7	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	12/6/2022		
Neurosurgery - Benign Tumour Removal Surgery	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	7	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	12/10/2022		
Orthopaedic Surgery - Knee - Primary Total Joint Replacement	NA	3	84	7	30	90	182	7	42	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	12/15/2022		
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery - Chest/Trunk/Abdomen	NA	3	84	7	30	90	182	1	28	56	182	NA	09/14/2022	Patient Death	12/15/2022		
Vascular Surgery - Aneurysm Surgery	NA	2	14	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	56	182	NA	01/09/2023	Patient Death	12/19/2022		
Orthopaedic Surgery - Spine	NA	2	7	7	30	90	182	1	7	56	182	NA	09/03/2021	Patient Death	12/27/2022		
Cardiac Surgery - CABG	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	27/12/2022	NA	Patient Death	12/30/2022		
Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery - Hip	NA	2	21	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	21	42	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	1/3/2023		
Oncology Procedures - Genitourinary	NA	2	14	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	NA	NA	Patient Death	1/4/2023		
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery - Chest/Trunk/Abdomen	NA	4	182	7	30	90	182	1	28	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	1/10/2023		
Neurosurgery - Benign Tumour Removal Surgery	NA	3	56	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	7	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	1/18/2023		
Oncology Procedures - Gynaecological	3	3	49	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	05/05/2022	NA	Patient Death	1/19/2023		Change in Medical Status
General Surgery - Digestive System Surgery	NA	3	84	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	1/27/2023		
Ophthalmic Surgery - Strabismus	NA	4	182	7	30	90	182	1	42	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	2/7/2023		
Oncology Procedures - Genitourinary	NA	2	14	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	NA	NA	Patient Death	2/8/2023		
General Surgery - Colorectal Surgery	4	4	364	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	11/25/2021	NA	Patient Death	2/8/2023		
Vascular Surgery - Aneurysm Surgery	NA	2	14	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	56	182	NA	06/19/2020	Patient Death	2/13/2023		
General Surgery - Inguinal Hernia	4	4	364	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	07/27/2021	NA	Patient Death	2/15/2023		
Gynaecologic Surgery - Benign Uterine Surgery	NA	4	182	7	30	90	182	1	7	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	2/17/2023		
Oncology Procedures - Gynaecological	3	3	49	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	10/04/2022	02/28/2023	Patient Death	2/21/2023		
Orthopaedic Surgery - Knee - Primary Total Joint Replacement	3	3	174	7	30	90	182	7	42	84	182	09/21/2021	NA	Patient Death	2/21/2023		
Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgery - Hip	3	3	174	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	21	42	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	2/21/2023		Change in Medical Status
Urologic Surgery - Kidney/Renal Pelvis/Ureter	NA	3	84	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	3/2/2023		
Cardiac Surgery - Other Valve Surgery	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	21/02/2023	NA	Patient Death	3/3/2023		
General Surgery - Umbilical Hernia	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	3/4/2023		
Urologic Surgery - Kidney/Renal Pelvis/Ureter	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	28	84	182	NA	03/01/2023	Patient Death	3/5/2023		
Cardiac Surgery - Other Valve Surgery	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3/3/2023	NA	Patient Death	3/7/2023		
Vascular Surgery - Non-Bypass Arterial Surgery	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	3/8/2023		
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery - Chest/Trunk/Abdomen	NA	1	1	7	30	90	182	1	28	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	3/15/2023		
Oncology Procedures - Genitourinary	NA	2	14	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	NA	NA	Patient Death	3/16/2023		
Vascular Surgery - Arterial Bypass Surgery	NA	4	182	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	56	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	3/18/2023		
Orthopaedic Surgery - Wrist	NA	4	182	7	30	90	182	7	42	84	182	NA	NA	Patient Death	3/30/2023		
Oncology Procedures - Genitourinary	NA	3	28	NA	NA	NA	NA	1	14	28	84	NA	NA	Patient Death	3/30/2023		