



May 24, 2023

Dear Kristen:

**Re: Decision on Access and Fee Request
FIPPA Access Request 2023-013**

I am writing further to your request for access to records under the provisions of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the "Act"). Your request seeks access to:

Please provide data on the number of patients that died on a waiting list for surgery or a procedure 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).

A thorough search for records responsive to your access request has been completed. The results of the search are itemized in the enclosed Index. While the information requested is not maintained in a record, after review of the information available, the hospital can provide data responsive to the request. Some information will be withheld pursuant to Section 21 of the Act, as set out below, as personal health information cannot be released.

Decision on Access

Access in part is granted to the responsive records.

Number of Patients and Case Information

Between April 1st, 2022, and March 31st, 2023, 92 patients were seeing a surgery team provider with a view to having a surgery but died before the surgery was performed. Please note that this data is not formally maintained as a waitlist, as the scheduling of surgical procedures is dynamic and constantly being updated based on the health status of a patient. As a result, the data may not be accurate or complete. This data should not be relied on or interpreted as a specific cause/reason for death. The hospital cannot confirm that these patients died because they were waiting for surgery, and patients may have died for a variety of reasons.

You requested that this data be broken out by:

- Procedure and case information- not available, this would require a review of each patient chart.
- Date the patient was referred to a specialist- not available.
- Decision date- patients are added to the surgical waitlist once it is decided that they need surgery. We can provide the date that a patient was added to the waitlist.
- Date of cancellation- we can provide the date a patient was removed from the waitlist, which happened once the hospital became aware of a patient's death.

Government's Target Time for Procedure

The Ontario Ministry of Health provides information on target times for surgical procedures on the following website: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/wait-times-ontario>.

Right of Appeal

You may appeal this decision on access to the Ontario Information and Privacy Commissioner's Office within 30 days of receipt of this letter. The Commissioner can be reached at:

Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Bloor Street East, Suite 1400
Toronto, Ontario
M4W 1A8
Tel: 1-800-387-0073

Please note that you have 30 days from the date of this letter to respond. If we have not heard from you within 30 days, we will close your file.

Yours truly,

The Privacy Office

Enclosures: Index of Records

Responsive Records

Number of Patients and Case Information

WAITLIST TYPE	ADDED TO WAITLIST	REMOVED FROM WAITLIST	REMOVAL REASON
Surgical Consult	1/25/2022	9/13/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	5/17/2022	4/6/2023	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	10/4/2022	2/26/2023	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	4/16/2022	10/29/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	4/20/2022	1/7/2023	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	5/18/2022	8/5/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	8/29/2022	9/25/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	1/10/2023	3/25/2023	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	11/2/2022	11/16/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	4/6/2022	7/21/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	7/5/2022	11/3/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	3/4/2022	8/10/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	7/22/2022	10/3/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	9/14/2022	10/22/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	2/27/2022	6/28/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	2/17/2022	3/27/2023	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	3/8/2022	12/2/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	8/12/2022	8/22/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	9/1/2022	1/16/2023	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	5/10/2022	7/28/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	3/4/2022	6/23/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	3/3/2022	6/22/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	4/1/2022	4/8/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	11/14/2022	11/29/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	5/13/2022	6/28/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	1/9/2023	2/18/2023	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	5/3/2022	5/31/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	3/2/2022	4/22/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	5/2/2022	11/26/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	9/16/2022	10/17/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	4/18/2022	4/19/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	11/18/2022	12/14/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	10/19/2022	11/15/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	5/19/2022	8/31/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	12/5/2022	2/11/2023	Patient Died
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Surgical Consult	2/16/2022	5/4/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	5/1/2022	7/25/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	8/2/2022	8/29/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	4/14/2022	7/28/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	7/8/2022	1/30/2023	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	4/13/2022	4/21/2022	Patient Died
Surgical Consult	2/7/2022	9/10/2022	Patient Died
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