

June 14, 2023



**RE: Freedom of Information Request # 23-03**

I am writing regarding your access request under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (“FIPPA”) for the following:

1. *Data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for either a diagnostic scan or a consultation with a specialist in fiscal year 2022-23.*
  - a. *Please break the data out by procedure and case info – date the patient went on the waiting list, date for the meeting with a specialist or date for diagnostic scan (if scheduled), and date of cancellation.*
  - b. *Please also note the government’s target time for providing the consult or scan in question.*
  
2. *Data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for surgery or procedure in fiscal year 2022-23.*
  - a. *Please break the data out by surgery/procedure and case information – date the patient was referred to a specialist, decision date, date for the procedure, and date of cancellation.*
  - b. *Please also note the government’s target time for providing the procedure in question.*

Please refer to the itemized responses below for the data that is responsive to your request.

**Response**

1. **Number of Patients:** During fiscal year 2022-23, there were 0 instances where “patient death” was identified as the reason for a diagnostic scan no longer required.

Please understand that this data is un-validated and may not be accurate, complete or reliable. We do not have the ability to further validate the data or its level of accuracy, completeness or reliability. This data source is an administrative system and is not meant to capture clinical information about patients.

**Government's Target Time for Procedure:** Government target times for surgical procedures are available here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/wait-times-ontario>

- 2. Number of Patients:** We have data of 17 patients on a waiting list for a surgical procedure during fiscal year 2022-23, for whom "patient death" was identified as the reason the procedure was no longer required.

Please understand that this data is un-validated and may not be accurate, complete or reliable. It is reflective of the number of cases in fiscal year 2022-23 that were listed for surgery at Sinai Health System, where it was learned that the patient died and "patient death" was entered for the reason for closing the wait list entry in a dynamic provincial data system for surgical wait times. The data cannot be correlated with any specific patient outcome and we cannot exclude that the patient did not have surgery elsewhere or declined/rescheduled an offered surgical date. We do not have the ability to further validate the data or its level of accuracy, completeness or reliability.

This data source is an administrative system and is not meant to capture clinical information about patients. The data should not be interpreted as being reflective of the patient having died within the time frame specified, or as indicative of any specific cause/reason for death.

- a. Procedure and Case Information:** The procedures for the 17 patients are within the following surgical areas:

- Gynaecologic Surgery: 1 patient
- Oncology Procedures: 7 patients
- Ophthalmic Surgery: 3 patients
- Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dentistry: 6 patients

Given the potential for individual patient identification due to the small data set, access to data on the specific surgical procedure(s), referral date and decision date is denied on the basis of FIPPA section 21(Personal Privacy) and/or section 8 of the Personal Health Information Protection Act.

For *date for the procedure* and *date of cancellation*, we do not have data that is responsive to your request.

- b. Government's Target Time for Procedure:** Government target times for surgical procedures are available here: <https://www.ontario.ca/page/wait-times-ontario>



You may request the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review this decision. The Commissioner can be reached at:

Information and Privacy Commissioner/Ontario  
1400 - 2 Bloor Street East  
Toronto, Ontario, M4W 1A8

The appeal fee is \$25.00, payable by cheque or money order to the Minister of Finance and must be included with your correspondence. Please note that you have 30 days from the receipt of this letter to request a review by the Commissioner.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at (416) 586-4800 ext. 5886. Please refer to the above-referenced access request number in any further correspondence.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jesstina McFadden".

Jesstina McFadden  
Privacy & Information Access  
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