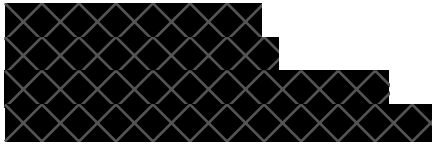


April 04, 2024

Healthy Albertans.
Healthy Communities.
Together.



Reference Number: 2023-G-414

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 12/01/2023 To 03/11/2024)

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

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.



Information & Privacy
Seventh Street Plaza – 5th Floor, North Tower
10030 – 107 Street, Edmonton, AB Canada T5J 3E4
IAS@ahs.ca

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 – 3 pages

2023-G-414

Response to: request for the # of cases (or best estimation) who are currently on a waiting list for a surgery or procedure.

Note: this does not represent the number of patients as patients may be on a waiting list for multiple procedures (related or unrelated)

The total number of cases* on the **Surgery Waitlist as of March 11, 2024 is 78,525**

Note:

- *Waitlist provided based on data as of Monday Mar 11, 2024*
- **Waitlist is reported as number of cases (count of distinct patients will be lower).*
- *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 **NOW INCLUDES ALSO** smaller sites in the North and South Zone. These sites went live with Connect Care in November 2023 and have been included in overall waitlists since that time. Note this represents an increased catchment of provincial surgical sites. No surgical sites remain missing from the reported waitlist.,*

Total Count: 228,799 Referrals Waiting

- 176,764 referrals are on workqueues (awaiting triage, initial scheduling, or in some cases rescheduling).
- 52,035 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 or 2023). This is because there are more departments using Connect Care now, which previously would not have been included in the counts. Since the last time this report was provided, for instance, outpatient clinics in AHS South Zone have gone live on Connect Care, which adds to our counts. These were not included prior to fall 2023.
- 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. This, I assume, should be fine because follow-ups are not normally considered part of waitlist counts.
- 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).

For referrals waiting (i.e. referral specialty waitlist data), above are the counts as of **13-March-2024 @ 1AM MST**.

2023-G-414

Response to request number: 2023-G-414

Request Text: 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 a diagnostic scan

CT	# of Pts. Waiting
Priority 1	1,041
Priority 2	12,050
Priority 3	12,200
Priority 4	14,971
Needs Priority Scheduling	6,902
Total	47,164

MRI	# of Pts. Waiting
Priority 1	637
Priority 2	15,109
Priority 3	31,331
Priority 4	14,986
Needs Priority Scheduling	2,498
Total	64,561

Notes:

Waitlist as at March 12, 2024.

Patients on the waitlist information is from Connect Care.

of Pts. Waiting is a distinct ULI count partition over Modality and Priority.

Needs Priority Scheduling – refers to orders to be assigned priority.

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

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

Outsource patients information not included.

Excludes non-AHS care facility (community).

Connect Care DI completely launched in November 2023