

IH Reference: 054-IH-2024-2025

November 12, 2024

Kristen Schulz
[REDACTED]

Sent via email: kristen@secondstreet.org

Re: Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FIPPA)

Request

Interior Health (IH) received your request for access to information under FIPPA. Your request was:

Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for surgery or a procedure in fiscal year 2023-24. 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)

Response

The following responsive records are attached (expires in 25 days):

<https://sftp.interiorhealth.ca/?u=K4Qv&p=gZY3&path=/054-IH-2024-2025%20Appendix%20A.pdf>

- 054-IH-2024-2025 Appendix A

Any redactions identified in the records include reference to a section of FIPPA. You can find FIPPA here:

http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/96165_00.

Review

Under s. 52 of FIPPA, you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner (the OIPC) to review IH’s response to your request. You have thirty (30) business days from the date of this letter to request a review in writing. Further information regarding the OIPC review process is available at this link: [How do I request a review? - Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for BC \(oipc.bc.ca\)](https://www.oipc.bc.ca/How-do-I-request-a-review/)

Sincerely,
Catharine

Freedom of Information Department
Interior Health

Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Däkelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka’pamux, Secwépemc, St’át’imc, Syilx, and Tšilhqot’in Nations where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.



REPORTING PERIOD: Fiscal Year 2023/24 (April 1, 2023 - March 31, 2024)

REQUESTOR: Catharine Bruch, Freedom of Information Department, IH

PURPOSE: To provide the number of surgery bookings that were cancelled due to the death of the patient while the patient was on an Interior Health wait list for elective surgery.

FINDINGS & ANALYSIS:

In Fiscal Year 2023/24, there were 212 booking records cancelled and removed from the Interior Health (IH) wait list due to the death of the patient while they waited for their surgical date. There were 55 various types of procedures cancelled due to patient death; Cataracts had 87 (41%), followed by Transurethral Resection Prostrate 12 (6%), and Arthroplasty Knee Replacements with 10 (5%).

The wait time for surgery starts the day the booking form is received at an IH hospital booking office. Of the 212 bookings that were cancelled due to patient death, 104 bookings (49%) had been waiting over the clinical benchmark wait time target for that surgery type at the date of patient death.

The reason for patient death is not documented in Interior Health and is unknown. Consequently, this report cannot be used to determine a correlation between the wait time for surgery and patient death.

TABLE 1: Number of Booking Records in IH cancelled due to Patient Death during the period that the patient was on an IH surgical wait list, by Procedure Group, Fiscal Year 2023/24

Procedure Group	# of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death
Cataract Extraction & Intraocular Lens (IOL) Implant	87
Transurethral Resection Prostate	12
Arthroplasty Knee Replacement	10
Other Surgical Procedures (<10 Total Cases)*	103
TOTAL	212
% of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death that were Waiting Over the Benchmark Wait Time Target	49%

DATA NOTES & LIMITATIONS:

- Procedure information shown is based on primary procedure only.
- Data includes elective OR procedures only, both daycare and inpatient cases.
- The data excludes non-OR procedures (z. procedures).
- Data includes only booking records with a cancellation date within Fiscal Year 2023/24 (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024)
- Wait times are calculated from the booking form received date to the patient expiry date (Patient date of death), excluding patient unavailable dates. Unavailable time is documented dates that the patient is unavailable for surgery due to personal reasons (i.e. out-of-country, not ready, etc.), or for medical reasons.
- The Benchmark wait time targets are associated with the adult/pediatric diagnosis prioritization code provided on the surgical booking request form.
- Procedure Group = Surgical Patient Registry (SPR) Procedure Group
- Due to patient confidentiality concerns all surgical volumes <10 cases are suppressed.

Appendix: N/A
Data Source: Picis OR Manager via Surgical Services2 Universe, IH Data Warehouse
Report Author: Jessica MacDonald, Data Consultant, Data & Analytics Services
Date Prepared: 31/10/2024