

IH Reference: 053-IH-2024-2025

November 12, 2024

Kristen Schulz  
[REDACTED]

Sent via email: [kristen@secondstreet.org](mailto: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 either a diagnostic scan or a consultation with a specialist in fiscal year 2023-24. 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. Please also note the government’s target time for providing the consultation or scan 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=wDRT&p=AV9N&path=/053-IH-2024-2025%20Appendix%20A.pdf>

- 053-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](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.



## Interior Health Data & Analytics Services

### IHA Medical Imaging Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death (FOI 053-IH-2024-2025)

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

**REQUESTOR:** Catharine Bruch, Freedom of Information Department, Interior Health Authority

**PURPOSE:** To provide the number of cancelled Medical Imaging bookings due to death while on the Interior Health wait list.

#### FINDINGS & ANALYSIS:

In Fiscal Year 2023/24, there were 1,232 Medical Imaging bookings cancelled and removed from the Interior Health Authority's (IHA) waitlist due to patient death. The top three Medical Imaging procedures cancelled due to patient death were CTs (479 bookings), Ultrasound & Vascular (285 bookings), and Echo (143 bookings). These top three Medical Imaging procedures account for 74% of the total cancelled bookings due to patient death.

The wait time for a Medical Imaging procedure starts the day the booking form is received at an Interior Health hospital to the procedure date (or removal from the waitlist). Of the 1,232 bookings that were cancelled due to patient death, 37% (456 bookings) had been waiting over the priority wait time target for the Medical Imaging procedure as of the cancelled date. 47% of cancelled Medical Imaging bookings were assigned a Priority level 5 or Unknown, and do not have an associated wait time target.

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 the Medical Imaging appointment and patient death.

**TABLE 1: Interior Health Number of Medical Imaging Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death by Procedure Group, Fiscal Year 2023/24**

Medical Imaging Procedure Group	# of MI Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death
CT	479
Ultrasound & Vascular	285
Echo	143
MRI	126
X-Ray	98
Interventional Radiology	40
Nuclear Medicine	39
Bone Density	16
Mammography	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,232</b>
<b>% of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death that were Waiting Over the Priority Target</b>	<b>37%</b>



## Interior Health Data & Analytics Services

**IHA Medical Imaging Bookings  
Cancelled due to Patient Death  
(FOI 053-IH-2024-2025)**

### DATA NOTES & LIMITATIONS:

- o Data is based on one Medical Imaging procedure booking per patient.
- o Data includes only Medical Imaging booking records with a cancellation date within Fiscal Year 2023/24 (April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024).
- o Wait times are calculated from the Medical Imaging booking form received date to the Cancellation date. Patient expiry date (Patient date of death) is not tracked in this data set.
- o Medical Imaging Priority Levels and associated target wait times:

Priority Level	Priority Category	Benchmark
Level 1 (P1)	Emergent	1 day
Level 2 (P2)	Urgent	7 day
Level 3 (P3)	Semi-Urgent	30 days
Level 4 (P4)	Non-Urgent	60 days
Level 5 (P5)	Follow Up	n/a
Unknown (Unk)	Unknown	n/a

Attachments: N/A

Data Source: CWS Statistical Desktop, Meditech (Hari Prithviam, Programmer/Systems Analyst), IH Scheduling Systems

Report Author: Ryan Kichuk, Consultant, Data Analytics, Data & Analytics Services

Date Prepared: 5 Nov 2024