

IHA Elective Surgical Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death (FOI 026-IH-2025-2026)

REPORTING PERIOD: Fiscal Year 2024/25 (April 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025)

REQUESTOR: Laura Findlay, 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 2024/25, there were 222 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 59 various types of procedures cancelled due to patient death; Cataracts had 86 (39%), followed by Arthroplasty Knee Replacements 17 (8%), and Stent Insertions/Removals with 13 (6%).

The wait time for surgery starts the day the booking form is received at an IH hospital booking office. Of the 222 bookings that were cancelled due to patient death, 85 bookings (38%) 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 2024/25

Procedure Group	# of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death
Cataract Extraction & Intraocular Lens (IOL) Implant	86
Arthroplasty Knee Replacement	17
Insertion/Removal Stents	13
Other Surgical Procedures (<10 Total Cases)*	106
TOTAL	222
% of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death that were Waiting Over the Benchmark Wait Time Target	38%

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 2024/25 (April 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025)
- 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.
- Given the reporting standards from the Ministry of Health for some procedures, patients may end up on the waitlist more than once and are all included in the calculations.

Appendix: N/A
Data Source: Picis OR Manager via Surgical Services2 Universe, IH Data Warehouse
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Date Prepared: 05/06/2025