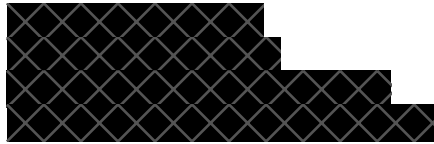


May 5, 2025



Reference Number: 2025-G-016

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* to Acute Care Alberta (ACA).

Specifically, your request reads as follows:

Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for surgery or a procedure in fiscal year 2024-25. Please break the data out by procedure/surgery 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).

The timeframe for this request is April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. (Date Range for Record Search: From 04/01/2024 To 03/31/2025)

Please note that nothing in this correspondence constitutes a waiver of any privilege.

ACA regrets to inform you that they do not track deaths while a patient is on a waiting list and as there is no ability to correlate the patient's cause of death with the exam they may have been waiting for.

The challenge is attribution to the reason for death. Individuals do die on the wait list while waiting for things like cataract surgery, but they did not die due to that cause. Hence, the measure would only be appropriate if we were able to conduct a clinical review to determine what may have actually caused the death. This would be a tremendous and lengthy effort as nothing in place can meaningfully track this association.

Also note Alberta Health (AH) were the owners of Alberta Wait List Registry and Owner of the vital statistics data, they took the linkage approach. They have now indicated it is not available from AH either.

As per the FOIP Act, we sought to establish that an adequate search for records had occurred before responding to you.

We considered the scope of your access request and shared the wording you submitted to areas within the Public Body that would likely hold responsive records. We also asked whether there was there a more appropriate area to conduct a search or if records related to the



request also reside in another area of responsibility. Furthermore, we considered whether clarification is required should there not be enough details to perform a search for records.

Staff within the following team(s) searched for records:

- Corporate Services,
- Clinical Operations.

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.

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 Acute Care Alberta .
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