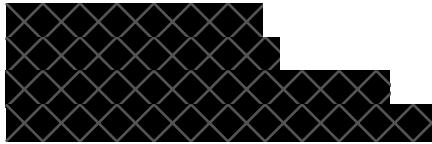


August 19, 2025



Reference Number: 2025-AG-081

Dear Mrs. Schulz:

Re: **Access to Information Act (ATIA)**
Final Response to Request for Information

I am writing in response to your request for access to information under the *Access to Information Act (ATIA)* to Acute Care Alberta (ACA). Specifically, your request reads as follows:

1) *"Please provide documentation on the government's (or health region's) protocol for patients requiring potentially lifesaving heart surgery. Specifically, please provide documentation that indicates patients must be informed – at the time they decide to proceed with surgery or when it is presented as an option – of their expected wait time for surgery and the maximum recommended wait time for surgery. If a similar disclosure is required, please provide that documentation. The time period for this request is January 1, 2022 to present (we're looking for the most recent documentation so if this protocol goes back further that is fine too – whatever is the current practice)." (Date Range for Record Search: From 01/01/2022 To 08/10/2025)*

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

ACA conducted a comprehensive search for records relating to the subject of your request. However, the search failed to retrieve any records.

As per the ATIA, 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.

Staff within the following team searched for records:

- Surgical Care Alberta

The ACA requests that both physical and electronic information repositories are searched and as expected this varies depending on the record types requested. Subject matter experts from Surgery Capacity Support & Rural Optimization reviewed the access request and based on their opinion ACA believes no responsive records exist. This was confirmed by a second subject matter expert.

There is no formal policy to support patient notification of wait times for various/particular surgeries. Wait list prioritization and case selection is unique to each surgeon and their office.

While we do have ACATs codes there is variability in practice and multiple codes surgeons can select. Scheduling/booking practices is physician lead so for the information you are seeking there are no responsive records.

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 59 of the *ATIA*, 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 business 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