Acute Care Alberta

June 23, 2026

[redacted]

Reference Number: 2026-AG-047

Dear Mrs. Kristen 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 data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for surgery or a procedure in fiscal year 2025-26. 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). Date range: April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026 (Date Range for Record Search: From 04/01/2025 To 03/31/2026)*

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

We are pleased to provide access to the records you requested; a copy of the records are enclosed.

A patient is considered to have died on waitlist if their date of death is less than 14 days before surgery cancellation date, if the cancellation (removal from waitlist) occurred anytime on or after their date of death, or if they remain active on the surgical waitlist.

Please note it is not possible to reliably link a person's cause of death to their waitlist status. Medical records document medical causes of death, not whether someone was waiting for an appointment or procedure. People also move on and off waitlists for many different reasons, so reporting deaths on a waitlist would not give an accurate picture.

Waitlists are designed for scheduling and prioritization. We closely monitor clinical urgency and patient safety. Clinicians reassess patients as needed, and urgent cases are expedited to ensure those at highest risk receive timely care.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss the processing of your request, please contact us at IAS@healthsharedservices.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 (ACA).
3. A completed OIPC Request for Review Form.

Sincerely,

Information Access Services
Legal & Privacy, Health Shared Services
Seventh Street Plaza
5th Floor, North Tower
10030 – 107 Street
Edmonton, AB T5J 3E4

Enclosures: Record package

Health Shared Services

Patient Deaths while on Surgical Waitlist
Fiscal Year 2025/26
ATIA Request 2026-AG-047

Service	Number of Deaths	Median** Wait Days
Cardiac (All)	52	23
General Practitioner	2	113
General Surgery	148	133.5
Neurosurgery	26	43
Obstetrics and Gynecology	20	145
Ophthalmology	232	74
Oral Maxillofacial Surgery	23	190
Orthopaedic Surgery	196	183
Otolaryngology	34	102
Plastic Surgery	23	147
Podiatry	2	516.5
Thoracic Surgery	4	211
Urology	113	86
Vascular Surgery	20	48.5
All Services*	**878**	**98**

Interpretation Notes:

*17 individuals were on the waitlist for surgery from more than one service. Their death was attributed to all involved services. Therefore, the sum of deaths from all services is **greater** than the volume reported under "All Services". It is recommended that the "All Services" value be used so these 17 individuals are not double counted.

** The median wait days is based on the number of days between **Ready to Treat (RTT)** date and surgery cancellation date or death date, whichever occurred **first**. This is calculated based on all cases.

** If a case has a RTT beyond the cancellation date, the calculated wait days would be **negative.** This scenario is most common in ophthalmology for cataract surgery on the second eye as the second eye RTT is the day after the scheduled date for the first eye.

Please see Notes page for additional important information for this analysis.

Prepared by: AH/FS for PSDA

Date: June 12, 2026

Health Shared Services

Patient Deaths while on Surgical Waitlist
Fiscal Year 2025/26
ATIA Request 2026-AG-047

This list contains all services that appeared in the waitlist data beginning in April 1, 2022. Please note that some of these services did not appear in the 2025/26 data. "Service" reflects the service associated with the first provider of the primary / initial planned procedure.

Primary Services - Considered "Surgical" in Nature	**Services Considered "Non-Surgical" or where exclusions applied**
Cardiac Surgery	Anesthesiology
Cardiology	Audiology
Cardiovascular	Dentistry
Colorectal Surgery	Dermatology
Critical Care	Gastroenterology
General Practitioner	Hematology
General Surgery	Hematology and Oncology
Gynecology	Internal Medicine
Gynecology Oncology	Medicine
Neurosurgery	Neurology
Obstetrics	Not Specified
Obstetrics and Gynecology	Nurse Practitioner
Ophthalmology	Oncology
Oral Maxillofacial Surgery	Other
Orthopaedic Surgery	Physician (Service not specified)
Otolaryngology	Radiology
Pediatric Oncology	Resident
Plastic Surgery	Respirology
Podiatry	Rheumatology
Thoracic Surgery	Tone
Urology	Transplant Surgery
Vascular Surgery	

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