Interior Health

Health and well-being for all

Compassion | Quality | Safety | Integrity

IH Reference: 067-IH-2026-2027

July 13, 2026

Kristen Schulz
Sent by email: 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 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*

Response

The following responsive records are attached (expires in 15 days):

- 067-IH-2026-2027 Appendix A https://sftp.interiorhealth.ca/?u=MAYU&p=kNv6&path=/067-IH-2026-2027%20Appendix%20A.pdf

These records are disclosed to you in their entirety.

For your reference, a copy of FIPPA is available at:
http://www.bclaws.ca/Recon/document/ID/freeside/96165_00.

Review

Under s. 52 of FIPPA, you may ask the Office of 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)

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Angela Maharajh
Freedom of Information Services
Interior Health

Interior Health would like to recognize and acknowledge the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Dãkelh Dené, Ktunaxa, Nlaka'pamux, Secwépemc, St'át'imc, syilx, and Tŝilhqot'in Nations where we live, learn, collaborate and work together.

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Interior Health
DATA & ANALYTICS SERVICES

IHA Elective Surgical Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death (FOI–067–IH–2026-2027)

REPORTING PERIOD: Fiscal Year 2025/26 (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026)

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.

REQUESTOR: Laura Findlay, Freedom of Information Department, IH

FINDINGS & ANALYSIS:

In Fiscal Year 2025/26, there were 206 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 49 various types of procedures cancelled due to patient death; Cataracts had 81 (39%) cases, followed by Transurethral Resection Prostate with 15 (7%), Arthroplasty Knee Replacement with 12 (6%), and Insertion/Removal Stents with 11 (5%).

The wait time for surgery starts the day the booking form is received at an IH hospital booking office. Of the 206 bookings that were cancelled due to patient death, 71 bookings (34%) had been waiting over the clinical benchmark wait time target for that surgery type at the date of the 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 2025/26

Procedure Group	# of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death
Cataract Extraction & Intraocular Lens (IOL) Implant	81
Transurethral Resection Prostate	15
Arthroplasty Knee Replacement	12
Insertion/Removal Stents	11
Other Surgical Procedures (<10 Total Cases)*	87
TOTAL	**206**
% of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death that were Waiting Over the Benchmark Wait Time Target	34%

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TABLE 2: 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 Health Service Area, Procedure Group, Fiscal Year 2025/26

HSA	Procedure Group	# of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death	% of Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death that were Waiting Over the Benchmark Wait Time Target
South Okanagan	Cataract Extraction & Intraocular Lens (IOL) Implant	21	
	Arthroplasty Knee Replacement	<10	
	Transurethral Resection Prostate	<10	
	Insertion/Removal Stents	<10	
	Other Surgical Procedures (<10 Total Cases)*	<10	
	Total South Okanagan	**38**	45%
North Okanagan	Cataract Extraction & Intraocular Lens (IOL) Implant	<10	
	Arthroplasty Knee Replacement	<10	
	Transurethral Resection Prostate	<10	
	Insertion/Removal Stents	--	
	Other Surgical Procedures (<10 Total Cases)*	19	
	Total North Okanagan	**29**	41%
Central Okanagan	Cataract Extraction & Intraocular Lens (IOL) Implant	18	
	Arthroplasty Knee Replacement	<10	
	Transurethral Resection Prostate	<10	
	Insertion/Removal Stents	<10	
	Other Surgical Procedures (<10 Total Cases)*	37	
	Total Central Okanagan	**65**	45%
Kootenay Boundary	Cataract Extraction & Intraocular Lens (IOL) Implant	31	
	Arthroplasty Knee Replacement	--	
	Transurethral Resection Prostate	<10	
	Insertion/Removal Stents	--	
	Other Surgical Procedures (<10 Total Cases)*	<10	
	Total Kootenay Boundary	**36**	8%
Thompson Cariboo	Cataract Extraction & Intraocular Lens (IOL) Implant	<10	
	Arthroplasty Knee Replacement	<10	
	Transurethral Resection Prostate	<10	
	Insertion/Removal Stents	<10	
	Other Surgical Procedures (<10 Total Cases)*	22	
	Total Thompson Cariboo	**38**	26%
East Kootenay	Cataract Extraction & Intraocular Lens (IOL) Implant	--	
	Arthroplasty Knee Replacement	--	
	Transurethral Resection Prostate	--	
	Insertion/Removal Stents	--	
	Other Surgical Procedures (<10 Total Cases)*	--	
	Total East Kootenay	**0**	0%
	TOTAL	**206**	**34%**

Interior Health
DATA & ANALYTICS SERVICES

IHA Elective Surgical Bookings Cancelled due to Patient Death (FOI–067–IH–2026-2027)

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 2025/26 (April 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026)
- 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 wait list 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
Report Author: Catalina Soto Urrutia, Data Consultant, Data & Analytics Services
Date Prepared: 22/06/2026