Privacy Office
108B Charter House
1465 Brenton Street
Halifax, NS B3J 1H1
foipop@nshealth.ca

October 27, 2026

Kristen Schulz

Sent via e-mail to kristen@secondstreet.org

Dear Kristen:

**Re: Full Disclosure – OUR FILE# NSHA-2026-061**

On May 11, 2026, Nova Scotia Health (NSH) received your request under the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (*FOIPOP Act*).

We understand your application to be for a copy of the following:

> 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
>
> and
>
> 2) Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for either a diagnostic scan or a consultation with a specialist in fiscal year 2025-26. Please break the data out by scan/consultation and case info – date the patient went on the waiting list, date for the meeting with a specialist or date for diagnostic scan (if scheduled), and date of cancellation. Please also note the government's target time for providing the consultation or scan 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, 2025, to March 31, 2026

Please find enclosed a copy of the records located in response to your request. We are providing these records to you in their entirety.

The Government's target wait time for providing a procedure or consultation/scan is publicly available through the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI): Access and wait times | CIHI, Explore wait times for priority procedures across Canada | CIHI.

We are now closing your file.

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You have the right to seek a review with the Review Officer within 60 days of receiving this decision. Complete details of the process are outlined on the website of the Office of the Information & Privacy Commissioner: Tools for the Public | Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner for Nova Scotia.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ife Afolabi
Privacy Officer
Nova Scotia Health

| Number of patients who died while waitlisted at NSH (April 1 2025-March 31 2026 | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Program / Service** | **Specialty / Procedure** | **Patients Expired** |
| Cancer Care | Medical Oncology | 90 |
| Cancer Care | Radiation Oncology | 54 |
| Cancer Care | Hematology Oncology | 85 |
| Cancer Care | Gynecology Oncology | 6 |
| Cancer Care | Thoracic Clinic (Oncology) | 9 |
| Department of Medicine - Procedures | Cardiology | 40 |
| Department of Medicine - Procedures | Gastroenterology | < 5 |
| Department of Medicine - Procedures | Respirology | 8 |
| Department of Medicine - Consults | Cardiology | 83 |
| Department of Medicine - Consults | Dermatology | < 5 |
| Department of Medicine - Consults | Endocrinology | 20 |
| Department of Medicine - Consults | Gastroenterology | 17 |
| Department of Medicine - Consults | General Internal Medicine | < 5 |
| Department of Medicine - Consults | Infectious Diseases | < 5 |
| Department of Medicine - Consults | Neurology | 18 |
| Department of Medicine - Consults | Respirology | < 5 |
| Diagnostic Imaging | CT | 416 |
| Diagnostic Imaging | MRI | 110 |
| Diagnostic Imaging | US | 117 |
| Perioperative | CATARACT EXTRACTION | 65 |
| Perioperative | URETER- CATHETER/STENT INSERTION/REMOVAL OR DILATION | 9 |
| Perioperative | KNEE ARTHROPLASTY | 7 |
| Perioperative | LAPAROSCOPIC CHOLECYSTECTOMY | 5 |
| Perioperative | HIP ARTHROPLASTY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | CYSTOSCOPY/TURP | < 5 |
| Perioperative | HARDWARE REMOVAL | < 5 |
| Perioperative | HERNIORRAPHY- INGUINAL/FEMORAL (GROIN) | < 5 |
| Perioperative | TRABECULECTOMY/ GLAUCOMA SURGERY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | CYSTOSCOPY URETEROSCOPY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | PARATHYROIDECTOMY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | CYSTOSCOPY/TURB | < 5 |
| Perioperative | REGIONAL LYMPH NODE BIOPSY/ DISSECTION (HEAD AND NECK, ILIO INGUINAL, ETC.) | < 5 |
| Perioperative | LIVER-LOBECTOMY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | KNEE ARTHROPLASTY REVISION | < 5 |
| Perioperative | EXCISION DUPUYTREN'S CONTRACTURE(PALMAR FASCIA) | < 5 |
| Perioperative | FUNCTIONAL ENDOSCOPIC SINUS SURGERY (FESS) | < 5 |
| Perioperative | LAPAROSCOPIC-NISSEN FUNDOPLICATION | < 5 |
| Perioperative | DEBRIDEMENT | < 5 |
| Perioperative | MUSCLE: BIOPSY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | HEAD TUMOUR BIOPSY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | URETHROSCOPY/URETHROTOMY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | HERNIORRAPHY- INCISIONAL | < 5 |
| Perioperative | CLOSURE COLOSTOMY/ILEOSTOMY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | PERITONEAL CATHETER INSERTION | < 5 |
| Perioperative | LITHOTRIPSY/LASER/ BASKET EXTRACTION | < 5 |
| Perioperative | PENILE PROSTHESIS-INSERTION/REVISION | < 5 |
| Perioperative | MAXILLOFACIAL DEFORMITIES | < 5 |
| Perioperative | DECOMPRESSION/TRANSPOSITION/EXPLORATION/REPAIR NERVE | < 5 |
| Perioperative | EXCISION BONE/EXOSTOSIS | < 5 |
| Perioperative | THORACOSCOPY/PLEUROSCOPY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | DIVERTICULECTOMY, MECKEL'S/ZENKER'S | < 5 |
| Perioperative | SEPTOPLASTY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | REPAIR ANEURYSM | < 5 |
| Perioperative | HERNIORRAPHY-UMBILICAL/ PARAUMBILICAL | < 5 |
| Perioperative | SPHINCTEROTOMY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | VEIN HARVESTING | < 5 |
| Perioperative | THYROIDECTOMY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | VITRECTOMY/VITREORETINAL PROCEDURE (removal IO lens, scleral buckle) | < 5 |
| Perioperative | CYSTOLITHOPAXY/ CYSTOLITHOTOMY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | INSERTION/REMOVAL VASCULAR ACCESS CATHETER | < 5 |
| Perioperative | BREAST REDUCTION MAMMOPLASTY | < 5 |
| Perioperative | BOWEL RESECTION/REPAIR | < 5 |
| Perioperative | AMPUTATION | < 5 |
| Perioperative | HYDROCELECTOMY | < 5 |

**Data Analysis**:

1. For the number of patients in cancer care who died while on a waiting list for a specialist consultation, it includes patients who were waiting for a consultation, regardless of whether an appointment had been scheduled. Consultation cancellations may not be recorded in the booking system immediately upon notification of the patient's death; therefore, the cancelation date does not necessarily reflect the actual date of death.
2. The number of consults and procedures reported for the Department of Medicine covers only the waitlists for specialists based at the QEII, Mumford, and Cobequid.
3. We do not have precise data on the causes of death for these patients and, therefore, cannot comment on the probablity of death avoidance if the diagnostics or pocedures were performed. It is also important to note that not all deaths are attributable to patients waiting for tests or procedures.

**Note on Responsive Data**

As part of your request, you asked that we " 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". To ensure that we are not releasing personal information, pursuant to section 20(1) of the FOIPOP Act, we have provided an aggregate of the requested data. Individual referral, appointment, and cancellation dates carry the potential for the re-identification of individuals and have not been provided to ensure the personal information of NSH patients is being sufficiently protected.