August 20, 2026

Kristen Schulz
Email: kristen@secondstreet.org

Dear [Applicant Name],

RE: Access to Information Request: 26-004

Thank you for your access to information request that we agreed would be responded to informally following the withdrawal of your request pursuant to The Local Authority Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (LA FOIP). You have requested:

> *Please provide data on the number of patients that died while on a waiting list for surgery or their first chemo or radiation treatment in fiscal year 2025-26. Please break the data out by procedure 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)*

Please be advised that the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency does not collect information that meets the specific parameters of your request as above, however, we have included the data available which best fits the nature of your request. While we cannot provide information on the number of people who died waiting for surgery, chemotherapy, or radiation treatment services; we have included the number of deaths by major disease site group for patients who died prior to having a new patient consult.

If you have any questions regarding your request or our response, please contact me at bailey.lepage@saskcancer.ca.

Yours truly,

Bailey Lepage

Bailey Lepage
Privacy & Access Officer

AR-26-058 - Patients Deceased while Waiting

Date: 18 Aug 2026

Epidemiology, Analytics & Surveillance

The following table shows how many people died while waiting for care at the Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, broken down by major disease site groups. Patients were either on the waitlist (not booked for an appointment) or had been removed from the waitlist and were waiting their first appointment at the time of their death.

Each person is only counted once, even if they were referred to more than one specialty. People who were already active patients were not included.

A patient was considered active if they had an appointment within one year of the referral date for the same disease site group as was referred.

Patients Deceased while on the Waitlist or Prior to 1st Appointment

April 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026

Disease Site Group	Number of Patients
Breast	1
GI	34
GU	12
Lung	25
Other	27

To avoid any potential misinterpretation, we want to provide the below context and clarify that the deaths reported above occurred to patients waiting for a new patient consultation not waiting for diagnostic procedures.

Context for Interpretation

Patients may not be ready to be seen by an oncologist on the date the Referral is received – delay reasons include such situations as waiting for additional surgery, waiting for final pathology results in order to identify the most appropriate oncologist to see the patient, the patient is still recovering from surgery etc.

Patients may be already in a palliative condition when the cancer is first diagnosed and the Referral is submitted

Not all Referrals are for new cancer diagnosed cases. Patients may have been treated in past years and discharged from the SCA but who are now re-referred

Because the highest incidence of new cancer cases occur in the population over 60 years of age, referred patients may die of other age-related causes other than cancer itself such as existing co-morbidities (heart disease, dementia, COPD etc.) , surgical complications or advanced age/frailty at diagnosis (e.g. greater than 90 yrs old) etc.