

## Regional Surgery Indicator Descriptions

**Note:** The indicators below can be stratified by the following variables:

1. Region (Central, East, North East, North West, Toronto, West).
2. Facility.
3. Priority Level (all, 2, 3, 4, or N/A).
4. Service Area (e.g. general surgery, gynaecologic surgery, neurosurgery, oncology procedures, ophthalmic surgery, oral and maxillofacial surgery and dentistry, orthopaedic surgery, otolaryngic surgery, paediatric cardiovascular surgery, paediatric dental/oral/maxillofacial surgery, paediatric general surgery, paediatric gynaecologic surgery, paediatric neurosurgery, paediatric ophthalmic surgery, paediatric orthopaedic surgery).
5. Date.

### **Inclusion Criteria:**

1. All closed and open wait list entries with procedure dates within the date range/reporting period.
2. For adult surgical procedures, patients that are 18 years of age or older on the day the procedure was completed.
3. For paediatric surgical procedures, patients that are younger than 23 years of age on the day the procedure was completed.
4. Cancer treatment procedures only.  
Patients who were referred for consult as new referrals and re-referrals with referral dates and consult dates (applicable to wait 1 only).

### **Exclusion Criteria:**

1. Diagnostic, palliative and reconstructive cancer procedures.
2. Procedures on skin – carcinoma, skin-melanoma, and lymphomas.
3. Procedures assigned as Priority Level 1.
4. Wait list entries identified by hospitals as data entry errors.
5. Wait list entries identified by WTIS as excluded from reporting.
6. Patients with no referrals for consult or patients whose consults are considered follow-up visits (Applicable to wait 1 only).

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### **Caveats and Limitations:**

1. This wait time is reported not at the surgeon level but rather at the level of the facility where the procedure took place.
2. Ninety among 114 surgical facilities in Ontario report surgical wait times to the WTIS; the remaining 24 facilities do not receive wait time funding for reporting and so do not report wait times.
3. Hospitals with small volumes will be more severely impacted by extreme waits (particularly the average wait time). For example, an unusually long or short wait time for a single patient in a reporting period for hospitals that do not treat a lot of patients (e.g., a small hospital performing cataract surgery) will have a greater impact on the average.
4. Since Wait Time data is reported at the hospital corporation or facility level, facilities with multiple sites will be reported together even though data is collected at each site. Wait Times may also vary by surgeon which will not be apparent in this data as it is reported at the institution level rather than individual surgeon.
5. There are other factors that affect wait times for a surgical procedure or diagnostic exam that do not relate to a hospital's efficiency, to a particular doctor or the availability of resources. They include: a. Patient Choice – a patient with a non-life-threatening condition may choose a non-surgical treatment or may decide to delay treatment for personal or family reasons to a more convenient time. b. Patient Condition – a patient's condition may need to improve before the surgery or exam takes place. c. Follow-up Care – a patient who has an existing condition may be pre-booked for a follow-up treatment or exam a long time in advance. d. Treatment Complexity – a patient with special requirements may need specific equipment or a certain kind of facility and there is a delay until these can be scheduled.

### **Comments Summary:**

If patient unavailable dates fall outside the Decision to Treat Date up to the Procedure Date, the patient unavailable dates are not deducted from the patient's wait days. These are considered data entry errors.

**Data Source:** Wait Times Information System (WTIS).

Indicator Name	Description	Refresh Frequency
<b>Active Average Wait 1 Time (days)</b>	<p>This indicator represents the average wait time (in days) from the time a referral is received by the surgeon to the first consultation with the surgeon.</p> <p><b>Numerator:</b> Total wait days for all patients.</p> <p><b>Denominator:</b> Total number/count of cases.</p> <p><b>Calculation:</b> Numerator divided by the denominator.</p>	Daily
<b>Active Average Wait 2 Time (days)</b>	<p>This indicator represents the average wait time (in days) from the time a patient and surgeon decide to proceed with surgery (i.e. decision to treat) to the surgery being completed.</p> <p><b>Numerator:</b> Total wait days for all patients.</p> <p><b>Denominator:</b> Total number/count of cases.</p> <p><b>Calculation:</b> Numerator divided by the denominator.</p>	Daily
<b>Percent of Cases on Target (%)</b>  <i>*Only applicable to the Wait 2 cases.</i>	<p>Percentage of patients whose surgery was completed within the provincial target wait time.</p> <p><b>Numerator:</b> The number of patients in the denominator whose surgery was completed within the provincial target wait time.</p> <p><b>Denominator:</b> Total number of patients whose surgery was completed within the time period (and met the inclusion criteria).</p> <p><b>Calculation:</b> (Numerator divided by the denominator), multiplied by 100.</p>	Daily

**Additional Note:**

Target wait times are as follows:

Service Area / Procedure	Priority Access Targets (Days)		
	Wait 2 (Decision to Treat to Surgery)		
	Priority 2	Priority 3	Priority 4
Cancer Surgery	14	28	84
General Surgery	14-28	84	182
Gynecologic Surgery	28	84	182
Neurosurgery	7-28	56-84	182
Ophthalmic Surgery	7-42	42-84	84-182
Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery and Dentistry	14	84	182
Orthopedic Surgery	7-42	56-84	182
Otolaryngic Surgery	28-56	70-112	182
Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery	28	84	182
Thoracic Surgery	14	84	182
Urologic Surgery	28	84	182
Vascular Surgery	14	28-56	182
Pediatric Surgery	7-42	42-84	182
MRI / CT	2	10	28

<p><b>Percent of Cases Not on Target</b></p> <p><i>*Only applicable to the Wait 2 cases.</i></p>	<p>Percentage of patients whose surgery was not completed within the provincial target wait time.</p> <p><b>Numerator:</b> The number of patients in the denominator whose surgery was not completed within the provincial target wait time.</p> <p><b>Denominator:</b> Total number of patients whose surgery was completed within the time period (and met the inclusion criteria).</p> <p><b>Calculation:</b> (Numerator divided by the denominator), multiplied by 100.</p>	<p>Daily</p>
<p><b>Percent of Cases Approaching Target</b></p> <p><i>*Only applicable to the Wait 2 cases.</i></p>	<p>Percentage of patients whose surgery is approaching the provincial target wait time, defined as 70% of the wait time target has elapsed.</p> <p>Wait 2 days in between (1-Threshold) multiplied by Provincial Wait 2 Access Target and Provincial Target.</p>	<p>Daily</p>
<p><b>Percent of Cases with a Very Long Wait</b></p> <p><i>*Only applicable to the Wait 2 cases.</i></p>	<p>Percentage of patients whose surgery was completed over the long waits thresholds (see below table of very long waits thresholds).</p> <p><b>Numerator:</b> The number of patients in the denominator whose surgery was completed over the long waits thresholds.</p> <p><b>Denominator:</b> Total number of patients whose surgery was completed within the time period (and met the inclusion criteria).</p> <p><b>Calculation:</b> (Numerator divided by the denominator), multiplied by 100.</p>	<p>Daily</p>

<p><b>Percent of Cases Scheduled (%)</b></p> <p><i>*Only applicable to the Wait 2 cases.</i></p>	<p>Percentage of cases with scheduled or rescheduled dates in the denominator.</p> <p><b>Numerator:</b> The number of cases in the denominator with scheduled or rescheduled dates in the denominator.</p> <p><b>Denominator:</b> Total number of cases with decision to treat date within the time period (and met the inclusion criteria).</p> <p><b>Calculation:</b> (Numerator divided by the denominator), multiplied by 100.</p>	<p>Daily</p>
<p><b>Average Number of Cases per Healthcare Physician</b></p> <p><i>*Only applicable to the Wait 2 cases.</i></p>	<p><b>Numerator:</b> The total number of Health Care Providers.</p> <p><b>Denominator:</b> The volume of currently active cases (with an Open Status).</p> <p><b>Calculation:</b> The numerator divided by the denominator.</p>	<p>Daily</p>