



Canadian Institute
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Analysis in Brief

Taking health information further

April 2009

Wait Times Tables—A Comparison by Province, 2009

First ministers met in the fall of 2004. They listed timely access to quality care at the top of their collective agenda.¹ Together, they agreed to focus on better management of wait times and on reducing waits that are longer than medically acceptable in five priority areas: cancer, heart, diagnostic imaging, joint replacement and sight restoration.ⁱ To assist in achieving these goals provinces agreed to establish and report on progress for specific wait time indicators and benchmarks. As part of this plan, the Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) was asked to report on progress on wait times across jurisdictions.

Initially, reporting was limited and not comparable from one province to another. Since then, provinces have worked on reporting, managing and reducing wait times. All provinces have now established websites dedicated to wait time information with a focus on the general public. Some have also developed sites for health care professionals with information to assist with the management of waits. Provincial commitment to wait time measurement has become evident in reporting that has been more consistent and complete every year since 2005.

This fourth consecutive annual report provides an overview of provincial data and information on wait times. This year for the first time, the provinces have submitted wait time data (tables 4 to 10) following specified parameters, the first part of a two-year process to enhance comparability. Provinces provided data on waits at the median, 90th percentile and percent-meeting-benchmark levels as near to the parameters as their respective data collection permitted. While these data are more comparable, they must still be viewed with some caution. The extent to which differences in provincial wait times are related to variations in definitions versus real differences in waits cannot be determined at this time.

i. In the companion agreement, *Asymmetrical Federalism That Respects Quebec's Jurisdiction*, it was noted that Quebec would apply its own wait time reduction plan, in accordance with the objectives, standards and criteria established by the relevant Quebec authorities.²

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What is “percent meeting benchmark”?

In December 2005, health ministers issued wait time benchmarks for seven procedures.³ The governments defined benchmarks as “evidence-based goals that each province or territory will strive to meet, while balancing other priorities aimed at providing quality care to Canadians. Benchmarks express the amount of time that clinical evidence shows is appropriate to wait for a procedure.” Wait time benchmarks focus on the period after a need for treatment has been established and the patient is ready to receive care, rather than the earlier wait for specialist consultations or diagnostic tests. Benchmarks are expressed as a percentage of patients who receive treatment within the determined time period.

While we still need to be cautious when comparing waits across provinces, it is possible to examine progress over time within certain provinces. For each of the last four years, we reviewed the data available on provincial websites as of December 1. Trends in wait times were analyzed by procedure for jurisdictions that consistently defined and measured wait times over at least a three-year period. A 10% change up or down from the first year was the criterion for marking an increase or decrease in wait times. Wait times were considered unchanged with any difference less than 10%. Provinces with recent improvements to definitions and measures did not have trending data available for three consecutive years. As well, provinces are employing a variety of strategies to improve data quality, such as audits of wait lists ensuring all on the list are candidates for surgery. The extent and nature of these activities vary by province and may have an effect (positive or negative) on trending of reported waits. Key findings include:

- **At least 75% of patients are receiving radiation treatment and bypass surgery within benchmarks.** More than three-quarters of patients (79%) across jurisdictions with data to report receive radiation therapy within the benchmark of four weeks. In all seven provinces with data, most patients (90% to 100%) receive bypass surgery within 26 weeks. See Table 1.

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Table 1 At Least 75% of Patients Receive Treatment Within Wait Time Benchmarks

	Cancer—Radiation Treatment	Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery	Hip Replacements	Knee Replacements	Cataract Surgery
Wait Time Benchmarks	Treatment within 4 weeks (28 days) of being ready to treat	Surgery within 26 weeks (182 days)*	Surgery within 26 weeks (182 days)	Surgery within 26 weeks (182 days)	Surgery within 16 weeks (112 days)†
N.L.	✓	✓	✓	–	–
P.E.I.	✓		–	✓	–
N.S.			–	–	✓
N.B.	✓	✓	–	–	–
Que.	✓		✓	✓	
Ont.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Man.	✓	✓	✓	–	✓
Sask.	✓	✓	–	–	✓
Alta.		✓	✓	–	–
B.C.	✓	✓	✓	–	✓

Legend

- Benchmark data are not available.
- ✓ 75% of patients receive treatment within benchmark.
- Less than 75% of patients receive treatment within benchmark.

Notes

* Pan-Canadian benchmark specifies surgery within 2 to 26 weeks, depending on how urgently care is required.³ There is not yet consensus on definitions for urgency levels so the benchmark is applied across all priority levels.

† Pan-Canadian benchmark specifies surgery within 16 weeks for patients who are at high risk.³ There is not yet consensus on a definition for “high risk” so the benchmark is applied across all priority levels. There are no pan-Canadian benchmarks for angioplasty, MRI or CT scans.

- **Wait times are decreasing for joint replacement surgery but still fall short of benchmarks in several provinces.** Joint replacement patients continue to experience some of the longest waits of the five priority areas. Most provinces report longer waits for knees than for hips. All provinces, where trending data are available, show decreases in wait times for knee replacements. That said, only three-quarters of patients, in three provinces, receive knee replacement surgery within the benchmark of 26 weeks. In three other provinces 71–72% of patients receive knee replacements within the benchmarks. See tables 1 and 2.

Table 2 Provincial Wait Time Trends*

Priority Area	Joint Replacements		Sight Restoration	Heart	Cancer	Diagnostic Imaging	
	Hip Replacements	Knee Replacements	Cataract	Coronary Artery Bypass Surgery	Cancer— Radiation Treatment	CT	MRI
N.L.				--	↑		
N.S.				↓	--	↑	
Ont.	↓	↓	↓			↓	↓
Man.	↓	↓			--	↓	↑
Sask.	--	↓	↓	--			
Alta.	↓	↓	↓	↓	↑	↓	↓
B.C.	↓	↓	--		--		

Legend

- Trend data not available.
- No change in wait times.
- ↓ Wait times decreasing.
- ↑ Wait times increasing.

Notes

* Trends in wait times were analyzed by procedure for jurisdictions that consistently defined and measured wait times over at least a three-year period. A trend is a 10% change, from the first year, either way in the wait time. For ranges, both ends must go up or down. Evaluation of trends for these tables is not sensitive enough to pick up changes in wait times for ranges, which may go in different directions.

- **Reporting for diagnostic imaging is more limited than in other priority areas.** Since 2004, there were almost 30% more MRI and CT scanners and 35% more exams being done⁴, but this has not always translated into reduced waits, based on limited trending data. Only five provinces report diagnostic imaging waits, fewer than are reporting in other priority areas. As well, this is a priority area where no pan-Canadian benchmarks have been developed. A few provinces (Alberta, Prince Edward Island and Ontario) have developed their own targets for MRI and CT waits.
- **Where trends can be measured, shorter waits are reported for joints and cataracts.** For example, four of five provinces show improvements in wait times for hip replacement (Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta and British Columbia) and all five provinces (Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and B.C.) show decreases in waits for knee replacements. Another three (of four) provinces (Ontario, Saskatchewan and Alberta) have trends of decreasing wait times for cataract surgery, while one is unchanged (B.C.). See Table 2.
- **Most provinces (six of seven) are showing shorter waits in at least one priority area.** Decreases in wait times range from provinces making progress in at least one priority area to others reducing waits for most priority areas. For example, Ontario shows decreasing waits across three priority areas, while Alberta shows decreases in four.

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Provinces have made considerable progress in their efforts to report, manage and reduce wait times since 2004. Wait time data are more consistent, with further progress expected over the next year. Generally, when available, trend data show patients have shorter waits for care.

Table 3 Overview of Reporting From Provincial Wait Times Websites

Province	Wait Times Websites	Joint Replacement	Sight Restoration	Cardiac	Cancer	Diagnostic Imaging	Reporting Includes All Facilities
N.L.	www.releases.gov.nl.ca/releases/2006/health/0822no1.htm	•	•	•	•		Yes
P.E.I.*	www.gov.pe.ca/index.php3?number=news&lang=E&newsnumber=4418	•	•		•	•	Yes
N.S.	www.gov.ns.ca/health/waittimes/	•	•	•	•		Yes
N.B.	www.gnb.ca/0217/NBSCN-RSCNB/wait-e.asp www.gnb.ca/0051/cancer/benchmarks_wait-times-e.asp	•	•	•	•		Yes
Que.†	www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/en/sujets/organisation/waiting_lists.html	•	•	•	•		Yes
Ont.‡	www.ontariowaittimes.com www.cancercare.on.ca/index_statisticsandResearch.htm	•	•	•	•	•	No
Man.	www.gov.mb.ca/health/waitlist/index.html	•	•	•	•		Yes
Sask.	www.sasksurgery.ca/wait-list-info.htm www.saskcancer.ca	•	•	•	•		Yes
Alta.	www.ahw.gov.ab.ca/waitlist/WaitListPublicHome.jsp	•	•	•	•	•	No
B.C.	www.healthservices.gov.bc.ca/waitlist/	•	•	•	•		Yes

Notes

- * P.E.I. does not offer cardiac services; patients receive care out of province.
- † Quebec does not monitor wait times, but rather the percentage of procedures performed within recommended time frames.
- ‡ 82 hospital organizations report to the Wait Time Information System (WTIS) (out of 150 hospital organizations in Ontario); total surgical volume reported for cancer surgery, cataract surgery, and hip and knee replacement represents 65% of the total operating room surgical volume in the province.

Provincial Reporting of Wait Times in Benchmark Areas

Table 4 Hip Replacement Wait Times by Province, April to September 2008

Definition: The number of days that patients waited, between the date the surgeon made a decision to treat and the date the patient received a planned total hip replacement.

Population:

- Adults (age 18 and older)
- Excludes emergency cases
- Excludes elective partial hip replacements and hip resurfacing techniques
- Includes all total hip joint replacements (primary and revision); bilateral joints count as a single wait
- For all priority levels

	Exceptions to the Definition and Population	50th Percentile	90th Percentile	Percent Within Benchmark of 182 days	3-Year Trend*
N.L.†	Data are for January to March 2008 Benchmarks reported regionally only Excludes bilateral joints			79%–100%	
P.E.I.‡	Data are from October 1, 2007, to March 31, 2008	110 days	356 days	71%	
N.S.		201 days	642 days	45%	
N.B.	Includes all ages Includes only primary and unipolar replacements Bilateral joint replacements are counted as two operations	140 days	309 days	66%	
Que.				90% [§]	
Ont.	"Patient unavailable" days are excluded from the wait time calculation	63 days	180 days	90%	↓
Man.	Includes out-of-province patients Includes hip resurfacing	110 days	245 days	80%	↓
Sask.	Based on data up to November 24, 2008	155 days	482 days	56%	--
Alta.		103 days	255 days	77%	↓
B.C.	Includes all ages	71 days	279 days	78%	↓

Legend

- Data are not available.
- ▨ Unable to comment on trend data.
- No change in wait times.
- ↓ Wait times decreasing.

Notes

- * Trend is based on information gathered from provincial websites on December 1 of each year, from 2005 to 2008.
- † Data for the Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority were suppressed due to the small volume of cases completed in this quarter.
- ‡ For eight cases, the date of signed consent was substituted for missing received/booking dates.
- § Quebec data were obtained from www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/en/sujets/organisation/waiting_lists.html on December 1, 2008.

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Table 5 Knee Replacement Wait Times by Province, April to September 2008

Definition: The number of days that patients waited, between the date the surgeon made a decision to treat and the date the patient received a planned total knee replacement.

Population:

- Adults (age 18 and older)
- Excludes emergency cases
- Excludes knee resurfacing techniques
- Includes all total knee joint replacements (primary and revision); bilateral joints count as a single wait
- For all priority levels

	Exceptions to the Definition and Population	50th Percentile	90th Percentile	Percent Within Benchmark of 182 days	3-Year Trend*
N.L.†	Data are for January to March 2008 Benchmarks reported regionally only Excludes bilateral joints			67%–100%	
P.E.I.‡	Data are from October 1, 2007, to March 31, 2008	108 days	345 days	75%	
N.S.		213 days	647 days	46%	
N.B.	Includes all ages Includes primary knee replacements only Bilateral procedures are counted as two operations	167 days	408 days	55%	
Que.				86% [§]	
Ont.	“Patient unavailable” days are excluded from the wait time calculation Includes partial knee replacements	71 days	223 days	85%	↓
Man.	Includes out-of-province patients	121 days	312 days	71%	↓
Sask.	Based on data up to November 24, 2008	246 days	616 days	37%	↓
Alta.		123 days	299 days	72%	↓
B.C.	Includes all ages Includes partial knee replacements	102 days	332 days	71%	↓

Legend

- Data are not available.
- ▨ Unable to comment on trend data.
- ↓ Wait times decreasing.

Notes

- * Trend is based on information gathered from provincial websites on December 1 of each year, from 2005 to 2008.
- † Data for the Labrador-Grenfell Regional Health Authority were suppressed due to the small volume of cases completed in this quarter.
- ‡ In 16 cases, the date of signed consent was substituted for missing received/booking dates.
- § Quebec data were obtained from www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/en/sujets/organisation/waiting_lists.html on December 1, 2008.

Table 6 Sight Restoration Wait Times by Province, April to September 2008

Definition: The number of days that patients waited, between the date the surgeon made a decision to treat and the date the patient received cataract surgery.

Population:

- Adults (age 18 and older)
- Excludes emergency cases
- For first eye only; bilateral cataract removal counts as a single wait
- For all priority levels* *

	Exceptions to the Definition and Population	50th Percentile	90th Percentile	Percent Within Benchmark of 112 days* *	3-Year Trend*
N.L. †	Data are for January to March 2008 Benchmarks reported regionally only			29%–100%	
P.E.I. ‡	Data are from October 1, 2007, to March 31, 2008	78 days	180 days	60%	
N.S.		54 days	199 days	75%	
N.B.	Includes all ages Each eye surgery counts as one case	57 days	194 days	74%	
Que.				§	
Ont. ††	"Patient unavailable" days are excluded from the wait time calculation	44 days	123 days	88%	↓
Man.		75 days	151 days	77%	
Sask.	Based on data up to November 24, 2008 Includes urgent cases (level III) only Bilateral cataract surgery is counted separately for each eye	38 days	134 days	84%	↓
Alta.		70 days	199 days	71%	↓
B.C.	Includes all ages Both eyes are included as separate cases	55 days	171 days	78%	--

Legend

- Data are not available.
- ▨ Unable to comment on trend data.
- No change in wait times.
- ↓ Wait times decreasing.

Notes

- * Trend is based on information gathered from provincial websites on December 1 of each year, from 2005 to 2008.
- * * Pan-Canadian benchmark specifies surgery within 16 weeks (112 days) for patients who are at high risk.³ There is not yet consensus on a definition for "high risk" so the benchmark is applied across all priority levels.
- † Ophthalmology services are provided by a visiting locum specialist in the Labrador-Grenfell region.
- ‡ In 44 cases, the date of signed consent was substituted for missing received/booking dates.
- § Quebec reported 95% completion within a benchmark of six months for cataract surgery.
- †† The Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care benchmark for cataract surgery is 182 days.

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Table 7 Bypass Surgery Wait Times by Province, April to September 2008

Definition: The number of days that patients waited, between the date of the decision to treat and the date the patient received a coronary artery bypass graft (CABG).

Population:

- Adults (age 18 and older)
- Excludes emergency cases
- Includes CABG with and without valve replacement
- For all priority levels* *

	Exceptions to the Definition and Population	50th Percentile	90th Percentile	Percent Within Benchmark of 182 days* *	3-Year Trend*
N.L.	Data are for January to March 2008 Excludes after-hours emergency cases Includes only CABG without valve replacement			95%	--
P.E.I. [†]					
N.S.		***	***	***	↓
N.B.	Includes all ages	4 days	135 days	95%	
Que.					
Ont.	Includes elective CABG only	19 days	56 days	100%	
Man.		17 days	119 days	96%	
Sask.		4 days	73 days	98%	--
Alta.		7 days	83 days	99%	↓
B.C.	Includes adults 20 years and older Excludes surgery for people from out of province	43 days	109 days	91%	

Legend

- Data are not available.
- ▨ Unable to comment on trend data.
- No change in wait times.
- ↓ Wait times decreasing.
- *** Nova Scotia was unable to provide 50th and 90th percentile measures for 2008; however, consistent measures have been reported on the provincial website from 2005 to 2008, enabling trending.

Notes

- * Trend is based on information gathered from provincial websites on December 1 of each year, from 2005 to 2008.
- * * Pan-Canadian benchmark specifies surgery within 2–26 weeks (182 days) depending on how urgently care is needed.³ There is not yet consensus on definitions for urgency levels so the benchmark is applied across all priority levels.
- † P.E.I. does not offer cardiac services; patients receive care out of province.

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Table 8 Radiation Therapy Wait Times by Province, April to September 2008

Definition: The number of days that patients waited, between the date the oncologist made a decision that the patient was ready to begin radiation therapy and the date of the first radiation therapy treatment, for all cancers.

Population:

- Adults (age 18 and older)
- For all new cases
- Excludes emergency cases
- Includes palliative care patients
- For all priority levels

	Exceptions to the Definition and Population	50th Percentile	90th Percentile	Percent Within Benchmark of 28 days	3-Year Trend*
N.L.	Data are from January to March 2008 Excludes palliative care patients Includes breast, lung, colorectal and prostate cancer only			85%	↑
P.E.I.	Includes all patient treatment cycles	7 days	19 days	100%	▨
N.S.		***	***	***	--
N.B.	In Zone 1B, patients 16 years and older are included In Zone 2, all patients are included			94%	▨
Que.				79%–100%†	▨
Ont.	Includes emergency and pediatric cases	11 days	29 days	90%	▨
Man.	Includes emergency and pediatric cases	5 days	23 days	99%	--
Sask.	Data are for July 1 to September 30, 2008 Measures ready to treat to treatment Includes emergency and all patient treatment cycles	14 days	36 days	81%	▨
Alta.	Measures oncologist appointment to radiation Includes breast and prostate cancer only	21–42 days			↑
B.C.	Data are for April to October 2008 All cases are included	7 days		95%	--

Legend

- Data are not available.
- ▨ Unable to comment on trend data.
- No change in wait times.
- ↑ Wait times increasing.
- *** Nova Scotia was unable to provide 2008 summary measures as required; however, consistent measures have been reported on the provincial website from 2005 to 2008, enabling trending.

Notes

- * Trend is based on information gathered from provincial websites on December 1 of each year, from 2005 to 2008.
- † Quebec data were obtained from www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/en/sujets/organisation/waiting_lists.html on December 1, 2008.

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Table 9 CT Scan Wait Times by Province, April to September 2008

Definition: The number of days that patients waited, between the date the CT scan was booked and the date the patient received the scan.

Population:

- Adults (age 18 and older)
- Includes diagnostic scans (may be inpatient and/or outpatient)
- Excludes routine follow-up and emergency scans
- For all priority levels

	Exceptions to the Definition and Population	50th Percentile	90th Percentile	3-Year Trend*
N.L.				
P.E.I.[†]	Measured from date ordered to date completed Excludes inpatient cases	22 days	88 days	
N.S.		***	***	↑
N.B.				
Que.				
Ont.[‡]		9 days	40 days	↓
Man.		***	***	↓
Sask.				
Alta.[§]	Includes outpatients only	10 days	39 days	↓
B.C.				

Legend

- Data are not available.
- Unable to comment on trend data.
- Wait times decreasing.
- Wait times increasing.
- *** Nova Scotia and Manitoba were unable to provide 2008 summary measures as required; however, both provinces have consistently reported measures on their wait times websites for at least three years, enabling trending.

Notes

- * Trend is based on information gathered from provincial websites on December 1 of each year, from 2005 to 2008.
- † P.E.I. has established a provincial access target of 90% of patients receiving care within eight weeks of referral for CT (urgency III) patients.
- ‡ Ontario has established a provincial target of four weeks for all priority levels for CT.
- § Note that Alberta has set a provincial target of eight weeks for CT (urgency III).

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Table 10 MRI Scan Wait Times by Province, April to September 2008

Definition: The number of days that patients waited, between the date the MRI scan was booked and the date the patient received the scan.

Population:

- Adults (age 18 and older)
- Includes diagnostic scans (may be inpatient and/or outpatient)
- Excludes routine follow-up and emergency scans
- For all priority levels

	Exceptions to the Definition and Population	50th Percentile	90th Percentile	3-Year Trend*
N.L.				
P.E.I.†	Measured from date ordered to date completed Excludes inpatient cases	79 days	199 days	
N.S.				
N.B.				
Que.				
Ont.‡	Priority I cases are excluded	30 days	95 days	↓
Man.		↑
Sask.				
Alta.§	Includes outpatients only	41 days	136 days	↓
B.C.				

Legend

- Data are not available.
- Unable to comment on trend data.
- Wait times decreasing.
- Wait times increasing.
- ... Manitoba was unable to provide 2008 summary measures as required; however, consistent measures have been reported on the provincial website from 2006 to 2008, enabling trending.

Notes

- * Trend is based on information gathered from provincial websites on December 1 of each year, from 2005 to 2008.
- † P.E.I. has established a provincial access target of 90% of patients receiving care within 12 weeks of referral for MRI (urgency III) patients.
- ‡ Ontario has established a provincial target of four weeks for all priority levels for MRI.
- § Alberta has set a provincial target of 12 weeks for MRI (urgency III).

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For More Information

This Analysis in Brief is part of CIHI's ongoing program of work related to access to care, including wait times. This area was identified as a priority through consultations leading up to the development of CIHI's *Strategic Directions—2005–2006 to 2007–2008*. Specific topics for analysis were selected based on subsequent focused consultations on priorities for better information about access to care.

Copies of this document are available free of charge in both official languages on the CIHI website at www.cihi.ca. You can also find related reports such as *Surgical Volume Trends Within and Beyond Wait Time Priority Areas*, *Waiting for Health Care in Canada: What We Know and What We Don't Know* and the *Health Care in Canada* series.

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About CIHI

The Canadian Institute for Health Information (CIHI) collects and analyzes information on health and health care in Canada and makes it publicly available. Canada's federal, provincial and territorial governments created CIHI as a not-for-profit, independent organization dedicated to forging a common approach to Canadian health information. CIHI's goal: to provide timely, accurate and comparable information. CIHI's data and reports inform health policies, support the effective delivery of health services and raise awareness among Canadians of the factors that contribute to good health. For more information, visit our website at www.cihi.ca.

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Appendix

Table A-1 Provincial Hip Replacement Wait Time Trends

	Wait Segment	Summary Measure	December 2005	December 2006	December 2007	December 2008	Trend
N.L.	Decision to treat to surgery	Percent within national benchmark	Not reporting	90%–100% within 182 days	79%–100% within 182 days	79%–100% within 182 days	
P.E.I.*	Decision to treat to surgery	Median				15.7 weeks	
N.S.	Decision to treat to surgery	Percentages within time periods by region	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	< 60 d: 9% < 180 d: 36% < 270 d: 64% < 360 d: 78% < 540 d: 89%	< 60 d: 10% < 180 d: 45% < 270 d: 55% < 360 d: 69% < 540 d: 85%	
N.B.	Request form received to surgery	Percentages within time periods	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	< 21 d: 8% 21–42 d: 8% 42–90 d: 16% 90–360 d: 61% 360–540 d: 3% > 540 d: 2%	
Que.	Decision to treat to surgery	Percentage waiting longer than 180 days	Not reporting	Different reporting definition	5% waiting longer than 180 days	3% waiting longer than 180 days	
Ont.	Decision to treat to surgery	The point at which nearly all patients (90%) have completed their surgery	341 days	281 days	210 days	178 days	↓
Man.	Decision to treat to surgery	Median	133 days	112–161 days	133–385 days	70–126 days	↓
Sask.	Booking form received to surgery	Percentages within time periods	≤ 1 d: 20% 2 d–3 w: 3% 4–6 w: 5% 7 w–3 m: 18% 4–6 m: 20% 7–12 m: 16% 13–18 m: 7% > 18 m: 11%	≤ 3 w: 17% 4–6 w: 4% 7 w–3 m: 15% 4–12 m: 44% 13–18 m: 6% > 18 m: 14%	≤ 3 w: 15% 4–6 w: 6% 7 w–3 m: 11% 4–12 m: 47% 13–18 m: 13% > 18 m: 8%	≤ 3 w: 15% 4–6 w: 8% 7 w–3 m: 17% 4–12 m: 42% 13–18 m: 10% > 18 m: 8%	--
Alta.	Decision to treat to surgery	Median	126 days	97 days	92 days	105 days	↓
B.C.	Booking to surgery	Median	132 days	114 days	72 days	71 days	↓

Legend

- Data are not available.
- ▨ Unable to comment on trend data.
- No change in wait times.
- ↓ Wait times decreasing.

Note

* P.E.I. implemented a new data validation process in 2008. As a result, previous years' data is not comparable.

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Table A-2 Provincial Knee Replacement Wait Time Trends

	Wait Segment	Summary Measure	December 2005	December 2006	December 2007	December 2008	Trend
N.L.	Decision to treat to surgery	Percent within national benchmark	Not reporting	50%–100% within 182 days	70%–96% within 182 days	67%–100% within 182 days	
P.E.I.*	Decision to treat to surgery	Median				15.4 weeks	
N.S.	Decision to treat to surgery	Percentages within time periods by region	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	< 60 d: 3% < 180 d: 26% < 270 d: 52% < 360 d: 70% < 540 d: 83%	< 60 d: 7% < 180 d: 31% < 270 d: 45% < 360 d: 59% < 540 d: 79%	
N.B.	Request form received to surgery	Percentages within time periods	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	< 21 d: 5% 21–42 d: 6% 42–90 d: 15% 90–360 d: 63% 360–540 d: 8% > 540 d: 4%	
Que.	Decision to treat to surgery	Percentage waiting longer than 180 days	Not reporting	Different reporting definition	10% waiting longer than 180 days	6% waiting longer than 180 days	
Ont.	Decision to treat to surgery	The point at which nearly all patients (90%) have completed their surgery	441 days	353 days	291 days	209 days	↓
Man.	Decision to treat to surgery	Median	154 days	175–329 days	112–168 days	105–140 days	↓
Sask.	Booking form received to surgery	Percentages within time periods	≤ 1 d: 1% 2 d–3 w: 1% 4–6 w: 3% 7 w–3 m: 9% 4–6 m: 20% 7–12 m: 24% 13–18 m: 9% > 18 m: 32%	≤ 3 w: 2% 4–6 w: 3% 7 w–3 m: 9% 4–12 m: 43% 13–18 m: 16% > 18 m: 26%	≤ 3 w: 4% 4–6 w: 3% 7 w–3 m: 10% 4–12 m: 45% 13–18 m: 21% > 18 m: 17%	≤ 3 w: 3% 4–6 w: 3% 7 w–3 m: 11% 4–12 m: 46% 13–18 m: 22% > 18 m: 15%	↓
Alta.	Decision to treat to surgery	Median	167 days	134 days	120 days	140 days	↓
B.C.	Booking to surgery	Median	175 days	139 days	112 days	96 days	↓

Legend

- Data are not available.
- ▨ Unable to comment on trend data.
- ↓ Wait times decreasing.

Note

* P.E.I. implemented a new data validation process in 2008. As a result, previous years' data is not comparable.

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Table A-3 Provincial Cataract Surgery Wait Time Trends

	Wait Segment	Summary Measure	December 2005	December 2006	December 2007	December 2008	Trend
N.L.	Decision to treat to surgery	Percent within national benchmark of 16 weeks	Not reporting	25%–100% in 112 days	23%–100% in 112 days	29%–100% in 112 days	
P.E.I.*	Decision to treat to surgery	Median				11.1 weeks	
N.S.	Decision to treat to surgery	Percentages within time periods	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	< 30 d: 29% < 60 d: 46% < 90 d: 63% < 112 d: 74% < 120 d: 77% < 180 d: 88%	
N.B.	Request form received to surgery	Percentages within time periods	Not reporting	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	< 21 d: 20% 21–42 d: 18% 42–90 d: 28% 90–360 d: 32% 360–540 d: 2% > 540 d: 0.2%	
Que.	Decision to treat to surgery	Percentage waiting longer than 180 days	Not reporting	Different reporting definition	2% waiting longer than 180 days	2% waiting longer than 180 days	
Ont.	Decision to treat to surgery	The point at which 90% have completed their surgery	315 days	225 days	141 days	119 days	↓
Man.	Decision to treat to surgery	Median by health region	Not reporting	Different reporting definition	14–126 days	35–105 days	
Sask.	Booking form received to surgery	Percentages within time periods	≤ 1 d: 2% 2 d–3 w: 9% 4–6 w: 9% 7 w–3 m: 15% 4–6 m: 24% 7–12 m: 28% 13–18 m: 9% > 18 m: 3%	≤ 3 w: 24% 4–6 w: 10% 7 w–3 m: 19% 4–12 m: 42% 13–18 m: 5% > 18 m: 1%	≤ 3 w: 25% 4–6 w: 9% 7 w–3 m: 20% 4–12 m: 44% 13–18 m: 1% > 18 m: 1%	≤ 3 w: 27% 4–6 w: 12% 7 w–3 m: 20% 4–12 m: 39% 13–18 m: 3% > 18 m: 0%	↓
Alta.	Decision to treat to surgery	Median	93 days	104 days	81 days	56 days	↓
B.C.	Booking to surgery	Median	54 days	56 days	63 days	56 days	--

Legend

- Data are not available.
- ▨ Unable to comment on trend data.
- No change in wait times.
- ↓ Wait times decreasing.

Note

* P.E.I. implemented a new data validation process in 2008. As a result, previous years' data is not comparable.

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Table A-4 Provincial Bypass Surgery Wait Time Trends

	Wait Segment	Summary Measure	December 2005	December 2006	December 2007	December 2008	Trend
N.L.	Decision to treat to surgery	Percent within national benchmark of 182 days	Not reporting	99% within 182 days	92% within 182 days	95% within 182 days	↔
P.E.I.*							
N.S.	Decision to treat to surgery	Mean by priority level	28–188 days	3–182 days	2–22 days	3–76 days	↓
N.B.	Request form received to surgery	Percentage within time periods	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	< 21 d: 64% 21–42 d: 8% 42–90 d: 12% 90–360 d: 16% > 360 d: 0.3%	
Que.			Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	
Ont.	Accepted for surgery to surgery	The point at which nearly all patients (90%) have had their surgery	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	61 days	58 days	
Man.	Ready to treat to surgery	Median	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	46 days—elective	13 days—all priority levels	
Sask.	Booking form received to surgery	Percentages within time periods	≤ 1 d: 32% 2 d–3 w: 46% 4–6 w: 7% 7 w–3 m: 13% 4–6 m: 2% 7–12 m: 0% 13–18 m: 0% > 18 m: 0%	≤ 3 w: 87% 4–6 w: 7% 7 w–3 m: 5% 4–12 m: 1% 13–18 m: 0% > 18 m: 0%	≤ 3 w: 81% 4–6 w: 7% 7 w–3 m: 6% 4–12 m: 7%	≤ 3 w: 79% 4–6 w: 7% 7 w–3 m: 6% 4–12 m: 7% > 18 m: 0%	↔
Alta.	Decision to treat to surgery	Median	20 days	40 days	6 days	7 days	↓
B.C.	Decision to treat to surgery	Median	Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	6.1 weeks	

Legend

- Data are not available.
- ▨ Unable to comment on trend data.
- ↔ No change in wait times.
- ↓ Wait times decreasing.

Note

* Bypass surgery is not performed in Prince Edward Island.

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Table A-5 Provincial Radiation Therapy Wait Time Trends

	Wait Segment	Summary Measure	December 2005	December 2006	December 2007	December 2008	Trend
N.L.	Decision to treat to treatment for all new cases	Percent completed within national benchmark of 4 weeks	Not reporting	100% within 30 days	95% within 30 days	85% within 30 days	↑
P.E.I.*	Decision to treat to treatment	Median				7 days	
N.S.	Decision to treat to treatment	Mean by region and priority level	0.7–5 weeks	0–4.1 weeks	0–5.1 weeks	0–4.6 weeks	–
N.B.	Ready to treat to treatment	Percent of new patients commencing treatment within 28 days	Not reporting	Not reporting	94%	98%	
Que.	Ready to treat to treatment	Of those who are ready in a given week, the percentage who started treatment within 28 days	Not reporting	75%–100% within 28 days	84%–100% within 28 days	79%–100% within 28 days	
Ont.	Ready to treat to treatment	Percentage of patients seen/treated within recommended provincial wait time targets	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	50% within target of 1, 7, 14 days	70% within target of 1, 7, 14 days	
Man.	Ready to treat to treatment	Median	1 week	1 week	1 week	1 week	–
Sask.	Ready to treat to treatment	Percent of patients commencing treatment within 28 days	Not reporting	Different reporting definition	Different reporting definition	78%	
Alta.	Oncologist visit (decision to treat) to treatment	Median time from last day of the previous month by facility and body site	<2–3.5 weeks	<2–3.5 weeks	4–5 weeks	4–5 weeks	↑
B.C.	Ready to treat to treatment	Median	1 week	0.9 weeks	0.9 weeks	1 week	–

Legend

- Data are not available.
- ▨ Unable to comment on trend data.
- No change in wait times.
- ↑ Wait times increasing.

Note

* P.E.I. implemented a new data validation process in 2008. As a result, previous years' data is not comparable.

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Table A-6 Provincial MRI Wait Time Trends

	Wait Segment	Summary Measure	December 2005	December 2006	December 2007	December 2008	Trend
N.L.			Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	
P.E.I.*	Date ordered to date complete	Median				78.3 days	
N.S.	Date request arrives to day with three openings	Expected number of days by facility	40–95 days	34–177 days	15–156 days	14–234 days	
N.B.			Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	
Que.			Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	
Ont.	Date ordered to scan	90th percentile wait in days	117 days	104 days	126 days	101 days	↓
Man.	Booking to scan	Estimated maximum wait time	Different reporting definition	56 days	42 days	91 days	↑
Sask.	Booking to scan	Estimated maximum elective wait time	Not reporting	Not reporting	133–182 days	Not reporting	
Alta.	Decision to treat to scan	Median	63 days	80 days	57 days	42 days	↓
B.C.			Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	

Legend

- Data are not available.
- ▨ Unable to comment on trend data.
- ↓ Wait times decreasing.
- ↑ Wait times increasing.

Note

* P.E.I. implemented a new data validation process in 2008. As a result, previous years' data is not comparable.

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Table A-7 Provincial CT Scan Wait Time Trends

	Wait Segment	Summary Measure	December 2005	December 2006	December 2007	December 2008	Trend
N.L.			Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	
P.E.I.*	Date ordered to date complete	Median				22.1 days	
N.S.	Date request arrives to day with three openings	Expected number of days by facility	5–80 days	2–65 days	0–69 days	8–105 days	↑
N.B.			Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	
Que.			Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	
Ont.	Date ordered to scan	90th percentile wait in days	71 days	79 days	73 days	48 days	↓
Man.	Booking to scan	Estimated maximum wait time	Different reporting definition	77 days	56 days	35 days	↓
Sask.	Booking to scan	Estimated maximum elective wait time	Not reporting	Not reporting	7–42 days	Not reporting	
Alta.	Decision to treat to scan	Median	17 days	9 days	14 days	14 days	↓
B.C.			Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	Not reporting	

Legend

- Data are not available.
- Unable to comment on trend data.
- ↓ Wait times decreasing.
- ↑ Wait times increasing.

Note

* P.E.I. implemented a new data validation process in 2008. As a result, previous years' data is not comparable.