

Provincial Wait Time Benchmark Update Q2 2022-2023

During the second quarter of 2022-2023 (July 1 to September 30), wait time reports demonstrate that, on average, 91 per cent of residents of Newfoundland and Labrador (NL) received timely access to radiation, cardiac bypass and hip fracture repair benchmark procedures within the recommended targets. However, as result of the ongoing pandemic on average only 43 per cent of residents received access to non-urgent cataract, hip and knee replacement benchmarked procedures. This quarter, 89 per cent of patients received access to radiation treatment within 28 days; 89 per cent of cardiac bypass patients had surgery within the 182 day benchmark; 41 per cent of first eye cataract procedures were performed within 112 days; 44 per cent of residents accessed hip replacement surgery; 35 per cent accessed knee replacement surgery within 182 days; and 99 per cent of hip fracture surgeries were performed within 48 hours.

Curative Radiotherapy

The national benchmark for radiation treatment is 28 days. During this quarter, 89 per cent of 276 newly diagnosed cancer patients began radiation treatment within the 28 day benchmark. The time in which half (or the median) of these patients waited to begin treatment was 19 days, and the number of days in which nine out of 10 patients (90th percentile) began treatment was 29 days.

Cardiac Bypass Surgery done

The national benchmark has three tiers: Level 1 within 14 days; Level 2 within 42 days; and Level 3 within 182 days. Nationally, cardiac bypass surgery benchmark data according to the three urgency levels is not comparable, therefore Newfoundland and Labrador reports summary level data for all three levels combined. During this quarter, 89 per cent of 91 cardiac bypass surgeries were performed within the benchmark of 182 days; the median wait time was 9 days; and the 90th percentile was 308 days. At the end of September 2021, 71 patients were waiting for cardiac bypass surgery in the province.

Cataracts

The national benchmark for cataract surgery is 112 days. Nearly 1,200 cataract cases were completed in this quarter, with 622 cases on the first eye. In addition to this, 653 cataract cases were completed in the non-hospital facilities in Corner Brook and St. John's, with 341 cases on the first eye. In the Eastern region, 35 per cent of first eye cataract surgeries were completed in 112 days; the median was 183 days; and the 90th percentile was 493 days. In the Central region, 45 per cent of first eye included cases were completed in 112 days; the median was 131 days; and the 90th percentile was 202 days. In the Western region, 60 per cent of first eye cases were completed in 112 days; the median was 86 days; and the 90th percentile was 150 days. In the Labrador-Grenfell region, 100 per cent of first eye cases were completed in 112 days; the median was 9 days; and the 90th percentile was 41 days.

Hip Replacement

The national benchmark for hip replacement surgery is 182 days. During this quarter, close to 90 hip replacement surgeries completed in the province. In the Eastern region, 35 per cent of 75 cases were completed within 182 days; the median was 251 days; and the 90th percentile was 649 days. In the Central region, 71 per cent of 15 cases were completed within 182 days; the median was 96 days; and the 90th percentile was 352 days. In the Western region, 67 per cent of 22 cases were completed within 182 days; the median was 99 days; and the 90th percentile was 301 days. In the Labrador Grenfell region, due to the low number of surgeries being completed, data was suppressed for this quarter.

Knee Replacement

The national benchmark for knee replacement surgery is 182 days. During this quarter, 170 knee joint replacement cases were completed in the province. In the Eastern, 21 per cent of 75 cases were completed within 182 days; the median was 361 days; and the 90th percentile was 640 days. In the Central region, 43 per cent of 37 cases were completed within 182 days; the median was 207 days; and the 90th percentile was 460 days. In the Western region, 50 per cent of 51 cases were completed within 182 days; the median was 177 days; and the 90th percentile was 338 days. In the Labrador-Grenfell region, 43 per cent of 7 cases were completed within 182 days; the median was 229 days; and the 90th percentile was 345 days.

Hip Fracture Repair

The national benchmark for hip fracture surgery is 48 hours. Close to 110 hip fracture surgeries completed in this quarter. In the Eastern region, 92 per cent of 76 cases were completed in 48 hours; the median wait was 26 hours and the 90th percentile was 45 hours. In the Central region, 100 per cent of 16 cases were completed in 48 hours; the median wait was 16 hours and the 90th percentile was 30 hours. In the Western region, 92 per cent of 14 cases were completed in 48 hours; the median wait was 38 hours and the 90th percentile was 46 hours. In the Labrador-Grenfell region, no hip fracture surgeries were completed this quarter.

Provincial Wait Times Data
2022-23 Quarter 2: July 1 to September 30

Service Area	Pan-Canadian Benchmarks	Newfoundland and Labrador Wait Times – Second Quarter (July 1 – September 30, 2022)
Curative Radiotherapy	Within 4 weeks (28 days) of being ready to treat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89%
Coronary Bypass Surgery (CABG)	Level 1 Within 2 weeks (14 days) Level 2 Within 6 weeks (42 days) Level 3 Within 26 weeks (182 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 89%
Cataract	Within 16 weeks (112 days) for patients who are at high risk.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Health: 35% First eye • Central Health: 45% First eye • Western Health: 60% First eye • Labrador-Grenfell Health: 100% First eye • Provincial: 41% First eye
Hip Replacement	Within 26 weeks (182 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Health: 35% • Central Health: 71% • Western Health: 67% • Labrador-Grenfell Health: DS • Provincial: 44%
Knee Replacement	Within 26 weeks (182 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Health: 21% • Central Health: 43% • Western Health: 50% • Labrador-Grenfell Health: 43% • Provincial: 35%
Hip Fracture Repair	Fixation within 48 hours	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eastern Health: 92% • Central Health: 100% • Western Health: 92% • Labrador-Grenfell Health: NV • Provincial: 99%
<p>Data Source: Regional Health Authorities (RHAs), Newfoundland and Labrador. Notes: In keeping with data standards, outliers or cases that do not comply with the standard wait time definitions are excluded from cataract wait time calculations and Regional Health Authorities are working to address this. In the Labrador-Grenfell region, no (NV) hip fracture repair surgeries were performed and hip replacement data is suppressed (DS) due to the low number of surgeries completed this quarter. Date: January 20, 2023</p>		