

## Wait Time Information-Cataract Surgery (Sight Restoration)

### Q: What is a Cataract?

A cataract is a small cloudy area in the lens of the eye that blocks the passage of light to the retina. Cataract surgery is the removal of the cataract and implantation of an artificial lens to correct vision loss. The condition usually affects both eyes, but almost always one eye is affected earlier than the other.

### Q: Where will I be referred to have this surgery?

Ask your doctor/specialist where you can have your cataract surgery done, as this procedure is performed in the following hospitals:

#### Eastern Health

General Hospital - Health Sciences Centre – St. John’s  
St. Clare’s Mercy Hospital – St. John’s

#### Central Health

James Paton Memorial Hospital – Gander  
Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre – Grand Falls-Windsor

#### Western Health

Western Memorial Regional Hospital – Corner Brook  
Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital – Stephenville

#### Labrador-Grenfell Health

Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital – St. Anthony  
(A visiting eye specialist travels to St. Anthony to see patients.)



### Q: How are wait times measured?

For this operation, the wait time is measured from when you and your ophthalmologist decide to proceed with surgery to when the procedure is completed.

### Q: What is the benchmark wait time for cataract surgery?

The national benchmark for cataract surgery is 112 days. This means that ophthalmologists and the RHAs are working together to perform the majority of cataract procedures within the 112-day target. The most recent wait times for cataract surgery are:

**Table 1: Cataract Surgery (First Eye) by Region for Q3 (October 1 to December 31, 2010-2011)**

Region	Eastern Health	Central Health CNRHC -JPMH	Western Health	Labrador-Grenfell Health
<b>Wait Time Information</b>				
<b>Number of first-eye cataract procedures completed</b>	409	290	72	34
<b>5 out of 10 patients had surgery within this number of days</b>	69 days	95-106 days	38 days	105 days
<b>9 out of 10 patients had surgery within this number of days</b>	178 days	134-147 days	105 days	238 days
<b>Percentage of patients who had surgery within 112 days</b>	70%	60%-71%	91%	52%

Data source: Regional Health Authorities, Newfoundland and Labrador