

Wait Time Information – Colonoscopy

Q: What is a colonoscopy?

A colonoscopy is a procedure performed by a trained doctor who uses a colonoscope (a long, flexible instrument about ½ inch in diameter) to examine the large intestine (colon and rectum). It is often used to evaluate gastrointestinal symptoms, such as changes in bowel habits, rectal and intestinal bleeding, abdominal pain, or to screen individuals for colorectal polyps and cancer.

Q: Where will I be referred to have this procedure?

Ask your family doctor/specialist where you can have your procedure done, as these procedures are performed in the following hospitals:

Eastern Health

General Hospital - Health Sciences Centre - St. John's
St. Clare's Mercy Hospital - St. John's
Carbonear General Hospital - Carbonear
Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre - Burin
Dr. G.B. Cross Memorial Hospital - Clarenville

Central Health

James Paton Memorial Regional Health Centre - 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

Labrador Health Centre - Happy Valley-Goose Bay
Captain William Jackman Memorial Hospital - Labrador City
Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital - St. Anthony

Q: How are wait times measured?

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

Q: What is the benchmark wait time for colonoscopy?

There is no national benchmark for this procedure.

Table 1: Urgent Colonoscopy Wait Times for Q3 (October 1- December 31, 2013-2014)

Regional Health Authority	Number of Urgent Colonoscopy Procedures	5 out of 10 patients had procedure within this number of days	9 out of 10 patients had procedure within this number of days	Number of No-Shows
Hospital				
Eastern				
Health Sciences Centre	104	25	70	≤ 5
St. Clare's Mercy Hospital	76	20	65	≤ 5
Carbonear General Hospital	41	27	56	≤ 5
Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre	29	7	12	0
Dr. G.B. Cross Memorial Hospital	56	14	31	0
Central				
James Paton Memorial Regional Health Centre	84	8	19	≤ 5
Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre	135	11	24	≤ 5
Western				
Western Memorial Regional Hospital	73	12	36	≤ 5
Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital	NV	NV	NV	NV
Labrador-Grenfell				
Labrador Health Centre	DS	DS	DS	DS
Captain William Jackman Memorial Hospital	18	15	40	0
Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital	36	7	22	0

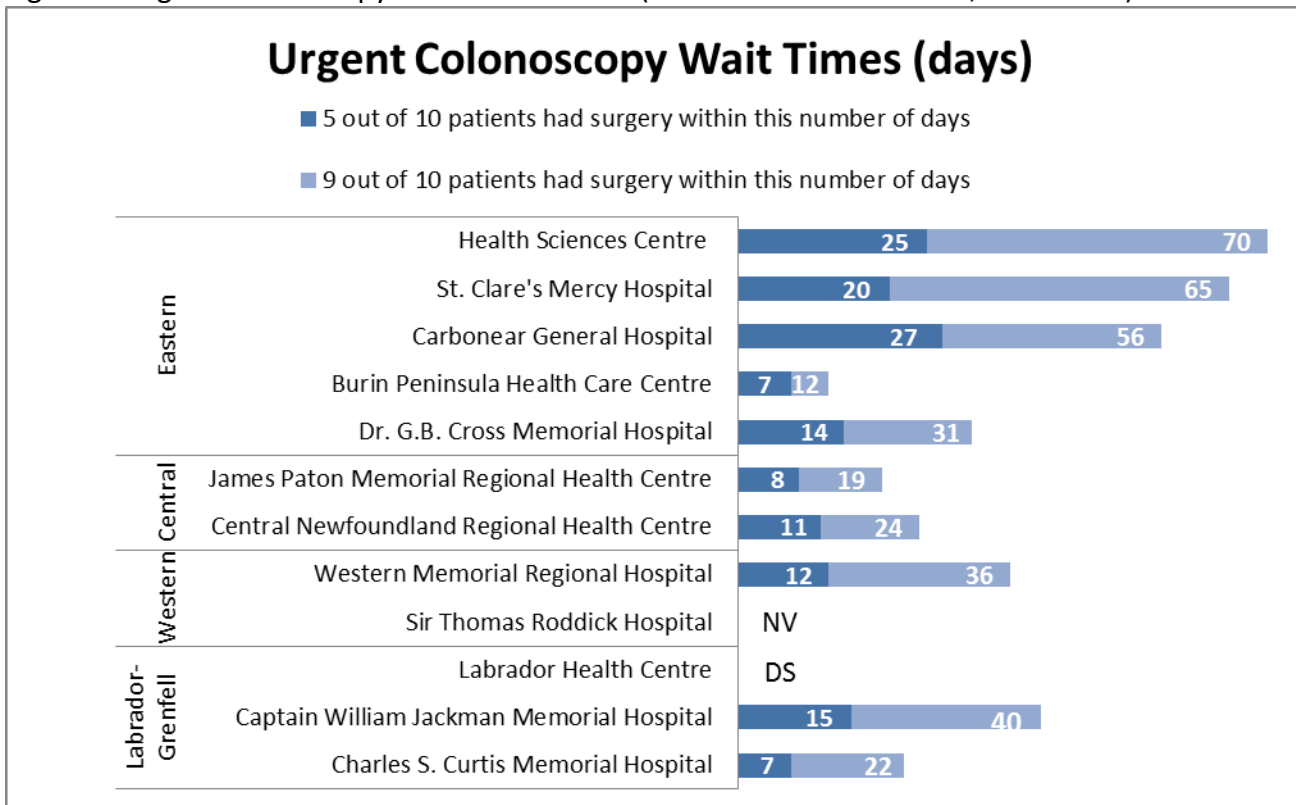
Source: Regional Health Authorities, Newfoundland and Labrador

DS: Data Suppression – This indicates that a hospital performed 5 or less cases during the reporting period. To protect patient privacy, wait times associated with these small volumes will not be reported.

NV: No Volume – This indicates that a hospital did not perform this service during the reporting period, or that zero cases were carried out.

Date: April 29, 2014

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