

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 Q4 (January 1- March 31, 2012-2013)

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	87	49	192	≤ 5
St. Clare's Mercy Hospital	61	14	55	≤ 5
Carbonear General Hospital	NC	NC	NC	NC
Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre	29	5	13	≤ 5
Dr. G.B. Cross Memorial Hospital	44	14	61	≤ 5
Central				
James Paton Memorial Regional Health Centre	99	14	181	7
Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre	136	21	48	7
Western				
Western Memorial Regional Hospital	61	14	41	≤ 5
Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital	DS	DS	DS	≤ 5
Labrador-Grenfell				
Labrador Health Centre	DS	DS	DS	≤ 5
Captain William Jackman Memorial Hospital	DS	DS	DS	≤ 5
Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital	25	11	30	≤ 5

Source: Regional Health Authorities, Newfoundland and Labrador

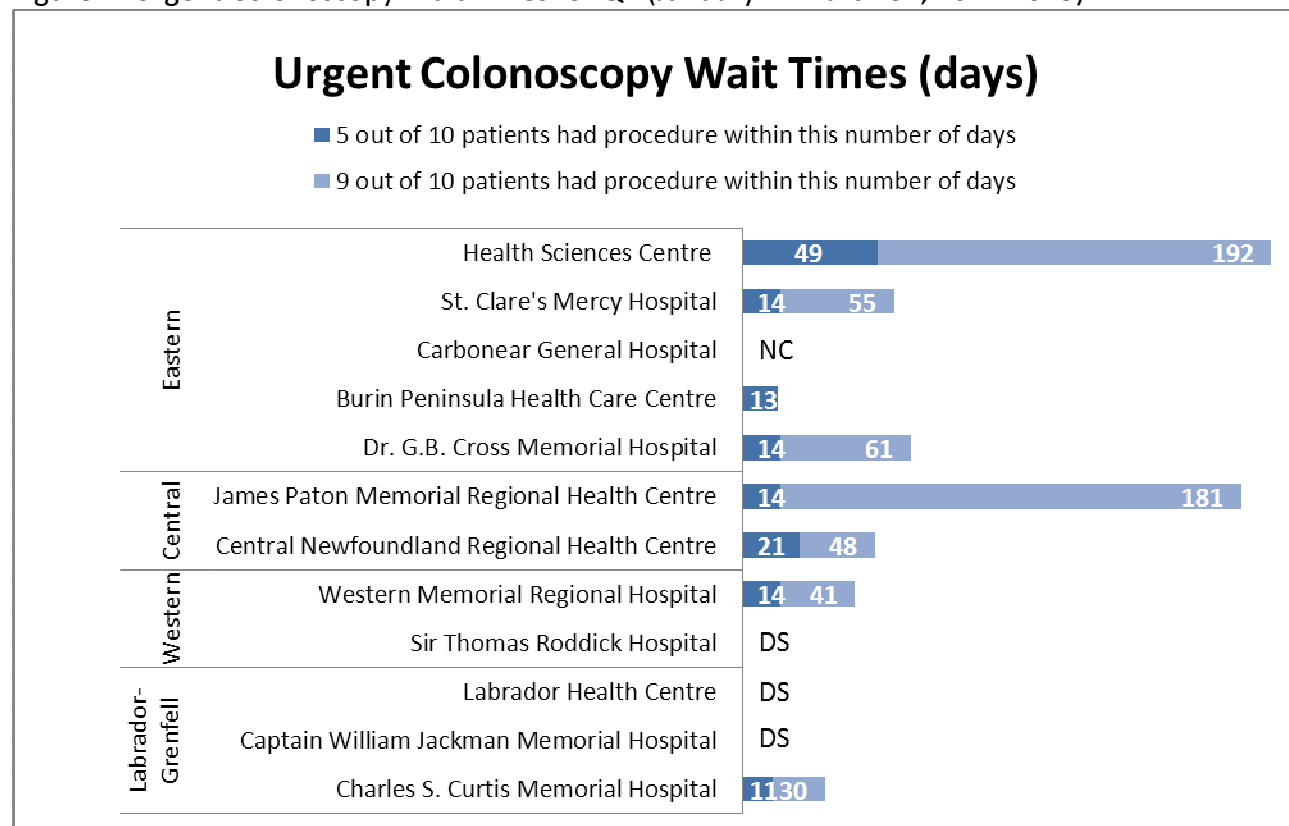
DS: Data Suppression – This indicates that a hospital performed 5 or less cases during the reporting period. To protect patient privacy, wait times associated with these small volumes will not be reported.

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

NC: Non-compliant: This indicates that a region or hospital did not report wait times data to the Department by the deadline for publication on this website

Date: August 16, 2013

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