

## Wait Time Alliance backgrounder: Wait-time guarantees by province and territory

Province or territory	Procedure guaranteed	Timeframe for treatment	Benchmark agreed to in December 2005 by P/T governments	Status	Recourse available	Federal Patient Wait-Time Guarantee Trust (\$ millions)*
British Columbia	Radiation therapy	8 weeks	4 weeks	In effect	Wait lists across regional cancer centres monitored on a regular basis. Service offered at another regional treatment centre provided through BC Cancer Agency.	75.4
Alberta	Radiation therapy	8 weeks	4 weeks	?	?	63.3
Saskatchewan	Cardiac bypass surgery	2–26 weeks	2–26 weeks (for levels I–III)	In effect	A wait list report is run every Monday to determine if a patient is beyond the benchmark. If they are, a process is in place for the patient to be scheduled for surgery in a hospital within the provincial system.	25.2
Manitoba	Radiation therapy	4 weeks	4 weeks	In effect	Patients will have option for provincially paid treatment outside the province if treatment cannot be provided within 4 weeks.	28.1
Ontario	Cataract surgery	26 weeks	16 weeks	In effect	A Care Connector will try to accommodate the patient in their region. If not possible, surgery will be performed in Toronto at 2 select sites with travel assistance beyond 100 km.	204.3
Quebec	Joint/cataract	6 months	6 months	In effect	If the hospital believes that the 6 month period could not be respected, an alternative must be offered to the patient. Therefore, one of the following possibilities is offered to the patient: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being operated on by another surgeon at their hospital</li> <li>• Being operated on by another surgeon at another hospital in their region</li> <li>• Being operated on by another surgeon at another hospital outside their region.</li> <li>• Being operated on in a specialized medical centre (SMC, CMSA).</li> </ul> The patient is always free to choose between accepting or refusing the alternative offer. If the patient wishes to keep his or her surgeon, the wait may be longer than 6 months.	126.7
New Brunswick	Radiation therapy	8 weeks	4 weeks	In effect	Patients transferred to other facilities in Atlantic Canada.	21.3
Prince Edward Island	Radiation therapy	8 weeks	4 weeks	In effect	Patients transferred to other facilities in Atlantic Canada.	12.1
Nova Scotia	Radiation therapy	8 weeks	4 weeks	In effect	Patients transferred to other facilities in Atlantic Canada.	24.2
Newfoundland	Cardiac bypass surgery	26 weeks	2–26 weeks (for levels I–III)	In effect	Government will provide options to undergo surgery elsewhere in the event that patients are waiting longer than 182 days.	17.7
Yukon	Mammography (DI)	Details to be worked out.	Not one of the 5 priority areas	By summer 2010	Details to be worked out.	4.5
Northwest Territories	Primary health care	Not specified	Not one of the 5 priority areas	Not specified	Recourse not specified. Investments are being made in primary health care.	4.7
Nunavut	Diagnostic imaging	?	Not yet determined	?	?	4.5

\* Per capita allocation of \$612 million Patient-Wait Times Guarantee Trust in Federal Budget 2007. See *Federal Investments in Support of the 10-Year Plan to Strengthen Health Care* ([http://www.fin.gc.ca/fedprov/typhc\\_eng.asp](http://www.fin.gc.ca/fedprov/typhc_eng.asp)). The estimates have been adjusted to account for the latest demographic data.

? The WTA made repeated attempts to contact all jurisdictions. Where the “?” appears the jurisdiction either has not implemented a guarantee or has not provided the WTA with enough information to be confident that a guarantee is in place.