

Surgical waitlist management policy

What is the surgical waitlist management policy?

- **The surgical waitlist management policy is a Fraser Health document, aligned with provincial standards, that prescribes conditions for adding patients to surgical waitlists, scheduling patients for surgery, and maintaining surgical waitlists**
- **The policy places special emphasis on patients being ready, willing, and able to proceed with surgery before they are added to a waitlist. Patients may be added to a waitlist when ...**
 - They are ready, willing, and able to proceed with surgery and accept an OR date
 - Any diagnostics required to confirm that surgery is required are complete
 - Any therapies undertaken as alternatives to surgery have been ruled out or are complete
 - Any planned lifestyle changes (weight loss, smoking cessation, etc) are complete or not delaying surgery
 - Any planned periods of travel/recreation are complete or not delaying surgery
- **The policy prescribes that patients must be scheduled for surgery in order according to ...**
 - Clinical priority, as defined by the provincial diagnosis code assigned by the surgeon
 - The order in which patients were added to the waitlist (first in first out)
- **The policy allows for patients to remain on a waitlist and be marked unavailable for up to six months during their wait. This applies only to patients already on a waitlist; patients may not be added to a waitlist when unavailable. Patients may remain on a waitlist but must be marked unavailable if ...**
 - During their wait, they decide to place surgery on hold for non-medical reasons such as work, travel, personal commitments, etc
 - During their wait, they and their surgeon decide to place surgery on hold for medical reasons
- **The policy prescribes that patients must be removed from a waitlist when ...**
 - They have used the full maximum unavailable time (six months) and remain unavailable for surgery
 - They have refused three surgical dates for non-medical reasons
 - Repeated efforts to contact (minimum three attempts over eight weeks) are unsuccessful

What is required of me?

- **Read and understand the waitlist management policy, directing any questions to the contacts below**
- **Waitlist patients only when they are ready, willing, and able to proceed with surgery**
- **Schedule the longest-waiting patients first while respecting clinical priority**
- **Mark patients unavailable if they are already waitlisted but not currently able to proceed with surgery**

Questions?

For questions or to request a copy of the policy please contact ...

- Glenn Weigel (glenn.weigel@fraserhealth.ca)
- Dr Dave Konkin (dave.konkin@fraserhealth.ca)
- Cindy Laukkanen (cindy.laukkanen@fraserhealth.ca)