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)
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