



PROVINCIAL SURGERY PROJECT FACT SHEET

Improving Access to Surgical Services in Nova Scotia

WHAT IS THE PROVINCIAL SURGERY PROJECT?

Access to healthcare services is a primary concern for government, healthcare providers, and patients. Improving access to surgical services and reducing wait times is a priority for the Nova Scotia Department of Health. As a step toward achieving this goal, the Department of Health has received federal funding from Health Canada and Canada Health Infoway to implement a provincial patient access registry. Once established, this registry will provide information to be used to manage and track all patients waiting for surgery in Nova Scotia.

Patient Access Registry Nova Scotia (PAR NS)

The registry, called the Patient Access Registry Nova Scotia (PAR NS), will support the management of patient care through improved access to information. It will provide timely, complete, and accurate information on patients waiting for surgery. This will assist with decision making, as well as improving communication to patients about where they are in the queue and when they are likely to receive their surgery.

New Operating Room Information System

A new Operating Room Information System (MEDITECH ORM) will be implemented to capture the required information for the registry (PAR NS), with the exception of locations that have existing OR information systems in place (Annapolis Valley Health, Capital Health, and IWK).

WHO IS INVOLVED IN THE PROJECT?

- Nova Scotia Surgical Care Network (provincial group including Chiefs of Surgery and clinical leaders from all DHAs/IWK, and Department of Health representatives)
- Surgeon Working Groups (12 specialty groups of Nova Scotia surgeon representatives)
- DHA perioperative staff, physicians, and senior leadership teams
- Department of Health

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS?

- Support for the management of patient care through improved access to information
- A standardized clinical acuity assessment for all surgeries in Nova Scotia
- Information to predict resource requirements for each DHA and the province
- Enhanced communication to patients about where they are in the queue and when they are likely to receive their surgery

WHAT IS THE TIMELINE?

Implementation will occur in phases and be completed by July 2010.