

ORTHOPEDICS

Health Authority	Number of patients on waiting lists April04/July04	Median waiting time, day patient, P2 & 3 (weeks) April04/July04	Median waiting time, inpatient, P2 & 3 (weeks) April04/July04	Unused daytime OR capacity (hours/week)	Unused evening OR capacity until 9pm (hours/week)	Unused weekend daytime OR capacity (hours/week)	% Of Orthopaedic surgeons reporting inadequate OR time	Change in OR time over past 5 years	Additional OR time needed per Orthopaedic surgeon (hours/week)	Total additional OR time needed for orthopaedic surgeries (hours/week)	Most frequently cited reason for inadequate OR time
Fraser	5,079/5,229	9.6/11.9	22.2/23.8	484	1803	1104	90%	Decreased	5.9	266	Short supply of nurses
Van Coastal	4,132/4,591	9.4/11.3	21.3/23.2	120	1423	976	91%	Decreased	5.9	321	Lack of funds
Van Island	4,069/5,684	13.6/16.5	20.8/33.1	328	1105	736	100%	Decreased	5.6	162	Lack of funds
Interior	3,789/4,287	31.0/12.0	31.4/31.8	588	1018	624	85%	Decreased	6.9	193	Lack of funds
Northern	891/1,070	5.3/5.1	6.6/8.1	200	240	160	100%	Decreased	6.8	27	Short supply of nurses

EYE SURGERY

Health Authority	Number of patients on waiting lists April04/July04	Median waiting time, day patient, P2 & 3 (weeks) April04/July04	Unused daytime OR capacity (hours/week)	Unused evening OR capacity until 9pm (hours/week)	Unused weekend daytime OR capacity (hours/week)	% Of Ophthalmologists reporting inadequate OR time	Change in OR time over past 5 years	Additional OR time needed per Ophthalmologists surgeon (hours/week)	Total additional OR time needed for eye surgeries (hours/week)	Most frequently cited reason for inadequate OR time
Fraser	5309/7340	8.2/8.0	484	1803	1104	75%	Decreased	3.5	153	Lack of funds
Van Coastal	6022/5818	8.7/9.3	120	1423	976	91%	Decreased	6.1	420	Lack of funds
Van Island	2012/2325	8.4/8.3	328	1105	736	22%	Decreased	4.9	214	Lack of funds
Interior	892/1366	11.3/9.4	588	1018	624	50%	Unchanged	2.6	53	Lack of funds
Northern	705/775	12.0/14.7	200	240	160	40%	Unchanged	3.8	19	Lack of funds

APPENDIX A

Maximizing Surgical Capacity in BC

(Information as of September 2004)

The survey was conducted by BCNU in September and October 2004 by interviewing operating room nurses and booking staff. The study also used the most recent waiting list data for elective surgeries posted on the BC Ministry of Health Services web site for cataract, hip replacement and knee surgeries (April 2004 and July 2004). Median wait times reported by each surgeon at a facility were averaged to determine the average median wait time for the facility for patients classified as priority two and three. Unless otherwise noted, wait time data in this appendix is from July 2004.

FRASER HEALTH AUTHORITY

Royal Columbian Hospital - 10 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataracts - no information
- ▶ Hips - 136 patients (26.2 weeks)
- ▶ Knees - 240 patients (36.6 weeks - inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 808 patients (11 weeks - day, 18.2 inpatient)

RCH has only recently begun using 9 of its 10 ORs. Elective surgeries end at 3:15 pm. There is additional capacity available by using the 10th operating room and/or by increasing the number of hours for elective surgeries. In the recovery rooms, only 9 of the 14 bays are being used normally, occasionally increasing to no more than 12. Four nursing positions are vacant.

Burnaby Hospital - 10 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataract - 509 patients (15.7 weeks)
- ▶ Hips - 24 patients (14.1 weeks)
- ▶ Knee - 47 patients (17.6 wks- inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 549 patients (10.1 weeks - day, 10.4 weeks - inpatient)

Burnaby Hospital is using 6 of its 10 ORs, up from 5 recently. One room is for eye surgery only. Elective surgery is done from 9 to 5 weekdays. The hospital is seeking more casual nursing staff.

Ridge Meadows Hospital - 4 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataracts – 1,803 patients (6.2 weeks – day, 0.7 weeks - inpatient)
- ▶ Hips - 62 patients (51.7 weeks)
- ▶ Knees - 102 patients (n.a.)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 513 patients (19.6 weeks - day, 46.2 inpatient)

Ridge Meadows is using only three of its four ORs. Two of them are used for eye surgery and the third for other procedures.

Eagle Ridge Hospital - 6 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataracts - no information
- ▶ Hips - 20 patients (24.4 weeks)
- ▶ Knees - 24 patients (22.7 weeks - inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 179 patients (9.4 weeks - day, 14 inpatient)

Eagle Ridge has the capacity to increase the use of one of its 6 ORs by one half a day a week. Electives are done only until 3:15 pm.

Surrey Memorial Hospital - 10 ORs plus two eye rooms

Waiting lists (from April 2004):

- ▶ Cataract - 513 patients (11.5 weeks)
- ▶ Hips - no information
- ▶ Knee - 71 patients (29.1 wks- inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 217 patients (9.4 weeks - day, 25.4 weeks - inpatient)

Surrey Memorial uses all 10 of its downstairs operating rooms only on Mondays and Fridays. The rest of the week only 9 rooms are used. Elective surgeries end at 3:30 pm. The two eye surgery rooms upstairs also close mid-afternoon. One room is used for cataract surgery five days a week; the other for retinal procedures only four days a week. Additional cataract procedures could be done in the second room on the fifth day and in both rooms if an evening shift was added. The hospital plans to renovate and open two more ORs next fall for day surgeries only. The hospital has added a thoracic surgery program.

Seasonal closures significantly impact the hospitals' surgical capacity. Only six ORs are in use during summer, spring break and Christmas periods, with the possibility of the hospital opening only four next year.

One nursing position is vacant in the OR, but three nurses have applied for it. To ensure an adequate supply of staff, the hospital is currently training new OR nurses, a program it runs each year. All 18 recovery room beds are being used.

Langley Memorial Hospital – 5 Ors

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataracts - 396 patients (9.1weeks)
- ▶ Hips - 66 patients (28.6 - inpatient)
- ▶ Knees - 153 patients (27.7 weeks - inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 965 patients (18.2 weeks - day)

Langley Memorial uses only four of its five ORs on weekdays. Two ORs run eight hours a day, one runs for 10 hours, while the fourth runs until 11 pm or for emergencies. Nursing staff have prepared a staffing rotation on their own to accommodate any expansion of OR activity.

Peace Arch Hospital - 3 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataracts - 330 patients (7.2 weeks)
- ▶ Hips - 129 patients (36.6 weeks - day; 45.0 weeks - inpatient)
- ▶ Knees - 294 patients (1.2 weeks - day; 60.2 weeks - inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 952 patients (4.9 weeks - day, 45.2 inpatient)

Peace Arch Hospital was a significant surgical centre before health care restructuring in 2002 reduced the hospital to a sub-acute facility. Staff report their three ORs close at 3:30 pm, they are not used every day, and that there is significant capacity to increase elective surgeries.

Delta Hospital - 3 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataracts - 97 patients - ave. median wait – 5.5 weeks
- ▶ Hips - no information
- ▶ Knees - no information
- ▶ Orthopedic - 8 patients (14.6 weeks - day)

Staff report only two of their three ORs are used five days a week and close at 3:30 pm. The third OR is used for general surgery only one day a week. The rest of the week it is used for endoscopies, a procedure that does not require an operating room facility. There are 12 patients currently on the waiting list for orthopedic surgery, but the orthopedic surgeon only has surgery time one day per month accounting for the lengthy waiting time. There is significant capacity to increase the number elective surgeries.

Matsqui/Sumas/Abbotsford (MSA) Hospital - 6 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataracts – no information
- ▶ Hips - 44 patients (14.1 weeks day, 8.1 weeks inpatient)
- ▶ Knees - 184 patients (19.4 weeks - inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 680 patients (7 weeks - day, 17.9 inpatient)

Only four of MSA's six operating rooms are in use. Only 8 of the 16 recovery room beds are being used.

Mission Memorial Hospital - 2 Ors

Waiting lists - see MSA above

Mission Memorial's ORs were closed in 2002. Since then it has resumed part time use of 1OR.

Chilliwack Hospital - 5 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataract – 2,181 patients (13.5 weeks day, 3.9 weeks inpatient)
- ▶ Hips - 37 patients (15.9 weeks)
- ▶ Knees - 80 patients (14.7 weeks inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 194 patients (3.2 weeks - day, 15 inpatient)

Chilliwack reports some of the longest waiting lists for cataract surgery, yet the hospital has significant capacity to increase its eye surgery program. The hospital uses only three of its five operating rooms. The two ORs designated for eye surgery are used only three days a week.

VANCOUVER COASTAL HEALTH AUTHORITY

Lions Gate Hospital - 11 ORs plus minor surgery and eye rooms

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataract - 591 patients (11.8 weeks)
- ▶ Hips - 119 patients (37.1 weeks)
- ▶ Knees - 230 patients (12.5 weeks inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 779 patients (14.6 weeks - day, 28.3 inpatient)

Lions Gate uses only 8 of its 11 Ors. VCHA is planning an increase to nine. This number doesn't include its minor surgery and eye surgery rooms. Elective surgeries are done until 8 pm.

Lions Gate is posting 4 relief nursing positions to increase its OR capacity.

In the recovery room, Lions Gate Hospital has 20 beds but has enough monitors for only 13. It currently uses only 7.

Richmond Hospital - 8 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataract – 1,111 patients (16.6 weeks day)
- ▶ Hips - 146 patients (30.2 weeks)
- ▶ Knees - 313 patients (48.4 weeks inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 1,089 patients (15.9 weeks - day, 34.1 weeks inpatient)

Richmond Hospital currently is using six of its eight operating rooms, with a plan to increase the number to seven when it begins doing pediatric daycare procedures in April. There is one vacant nursing position.

Vancouver General Hospital - 20 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataract – 2,447 patients (13.3 weeks day, 2.9 weeks inpatient)
- ▶ Hips - 784 patients (27.7 weeks)
- ▶ Knees - 565 patients (25.5 weeks inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 1,669 patients (5.8 weeks - day, 13.9 inpatient)

VGH has 20 operating rooms, but for three days a week recent practice has been to run only 18 of them. For the other two weekdays, the hospital generally runs 19 ORs. Consequently, until a recent injection of one-time funding, VGH had the capacity to run up to the equivalent of 8 more operating rooms on the day shift each week. The recent one-time funding has enabled the facility to run 19 ORs on all 5 weekdays, occasionally all 20. Elective surgeries are done as late as 7:30 pm in some ORs, but new cases are usually not started after 4:30 pm.. Three ORs are designated for emergency surgeries during the day. There are 8 nursing vacancies.

VGH has two rooms for eye surgery, running them Mondays to Fridays 8 am to 4 pm.

VGH is running only 3 of the 4 ORs in its surgical daycare unit. Hours of operation are 7:30 am to 5 pm Monday to Friday. There's one nursing vacancy.

UBC - 5 ORs

Waiting list for Orthopedic - 295 patients (10.3 weeks - day, 17.5 inpatient)

UBC Hospital was changed to sub-acute, no emergency surgeries. The hospital is using all 5 of its ORs for elective surgery and is building 2 more ORs.

St. Paul's Hospital – 14 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataract -121 patients (1.1 weeks)
- ▶ Hips - 74 patients (23.6 weeks)
- ▶ Knee - 188 patients (30.9 weeks- inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 665 patients (9.8 weeks - day, 22.4 weeks - inpatient)

Until the recent resignation of 12 of its RN staff, St. Paul's generally had been using 12 of its ORs three days a week and 11 ORs two days a week. Because of the number of RN vacancies, the hospital has cut back to using only 9 ORs.

VANCOUVER ISLAND HEALTH AUTHORITY

Greater Victoria

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataracts - 788 patients (9.4 weeks day, 1.1 weeks inpatient)
- ▶ Hips - 380 patients (25 weeks)
- ▶ Knees - 555 patients (35.5 weeks inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 2,061 patients (11.1 weeks - day, 23.9 inpatient)

Royal Jubilee Hospital - 14 ORs plus three eye rooms

RJH uses 12 of its 14 main operating rooms. It uses one of its three eye rooms for cataract and other procedures five days a week, and a second eye room part-time. Elective surgeries end at 3:30 pm. In the evening two of the ORs are used for emergency cases only.

Beginning in March 2005, RJH will discontinue its practice of reducing surgery to weekend levels, every fifth Friday, when it has been opening only two ORs during the day and one at night.

The RJH recovery room has the capacity for 14 patients, but it normally holds only 10, occasionally as many as 12. There are no nurse vacancies in either the ORs or recovery room.

Victoria General Hospital - 14 ORs

Victoria General uses only 11 or 12 of its 14 operating rooms. Four are for daycare surgery. Elective procedures are done until 4 pm, with only one or two ORs open in the evenings only for emergency cases.

Similar to Royal Jubilee, beginning in March 2005, Vic General will discontinue its practice of reducing surgery to weekend levels every fifth Friday as a budgetary measure, when it has been opening only two ORs during the day and one at night. The hospital recovery room is running below capacity.

There are no nursing vacancies in either the OR or the recovery room.

Nanaimo Regional General Hospital - 5 ORs plus two ambulatory rooms

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataract - 753 patients (15.6 weeks)
- ▶ Hip - 273 patients (38.8 weeks)
- ▶ Knee - 487 patients (20.1 weeks day, 59.5 weeks inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 1,225 patients (10.1 weeks - day, 45 weeks inpatient)

Only 4 of the 5 operating rooms are used five days a week during the day. The fifth room, which is allocated to urological procedures only is used three or four days a week.

Only one of the rooms is used after 6 pm for emergencies and a second is available if necessary. The ambulatory OR rooms run until 5 pm Monday to Friday. The pool of casual nurses is very small so nurses are working a lot of overtime. NRGH is using 10 of its 12 recovery room spaces.

St. Joseph's Hospital (Comox) - 4 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataract - 217 patients (6.4 weeks)
- ▶ Hips - 107 patients (20.5 weeks)
- ▶ Knee - 215 patients (41.1 wks- inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 1,008 patients (40.7 weeks - day, 20.7 weeks - inpatient)

The hospital runs 3 ORs five days a week and the other one only three days a week. Elective cases are booked from 7:30am to 2pm, but several add-on cases frequently run into the evening. There are no nursing vacancies.

INTERIOR HEALTH AUTHORITY**Kelowna General Hospital - 9 ORs**

Waiting list:

- ▶ Cataract - 48 patients (8.1 weeks)
- ▶ Hips - 237 patients (29.9 weeks day, 38.8 weeks inpatient)
- ▶ Knees - 533 patients (49.2 weeks day, 57.3 weeks inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 1,967 patients (26.7 weeks - day, 47.2 inpatient)

KGH regularly uses 8 of its 9 operating rooms. The 9th OR has restricted uses. Elective surgery is done from 8 am to 3 pm and 1 pm to 5 pm. The recovery room is running at its capacity of 14 patients.

Penticton General Hospital - 6 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataract - no information
- ▶ Hips - 54 patients (38.3 weeks)
- ▶ Knees - 113 patients (38.3 weeks day)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 326 patients (17.9 weeks - day)

Penticton Hospital uses only 3 of its 6 ORs. Up to 10 of its post-surgery beds have been closed. The hospital is experiencing overflow situations because it has to accommodate patients from Princeton, Oliver and Summerland where hospitals have reduced or closed their operating rooms under restructuring.

Electives are done only until 3:30 pm.

Summerland General - 2 ORs

- ▶ Only one of two ORs are used, with electives done until 3:30 pm.

Vernon Jubilee Hospital - 5 ORs plus a urology room

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataract - no information
- ▶ Hips - 113 patients (34 weeks - inpatient)
- ▶ Knee - 259 patients (56.7 weeks- inpatient)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 528 patients (7.2 weeks - day, 41.4 weeks - inpatient)

Vernon Jubilee uses 4 of its 5 ORs on Mondays and only 3 ORs Tuesdays to Fridays. Elective surgery is done from 7:40am to 3:45pm. There are no nursing vacancies.

Royal Inland Hospital - 8 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataract - 514 patients (17.1 weeks)
- ▶ Hips - 30 patients (n.a.)
- ▶ Knees - 86 patients (n.a.)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 348 patients (4.7 weeks - day)

The hospital uses 7 ORs on Mondays, Thursdays, and Fridays and only 6 ORs on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Elective surgeries are done 7:45 am – 3:00pm.
There are no nursing vacancies.

Kootenay Boundary Hospital, Trail - 6 OR
Kootenay Lake Hospital, Nelson - 1 OR

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataract - 89 patients (9 weeks)
- ▶ Hips - no information
- ▶ Knee - 164 patients (35 weeks day)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 856 patients (13.9 weeks - day)

At Kootenay Boundary Hospital (Trail), from 3 to 6 of the ORs are used. There are 2 nursing vacancies.

At Kootenay Lake Hospital (Nelson), 3 of the 4 ORs were closed in September 2002. The hospital does an average of eight elective cases a day from 7:45 am to 3:30 pm

NORTHERN HEALTH AUTHORITY

Prince George Regional Hospital - 10 ORs

Waiting lists:

- ▶ Cataracts - 180 patients (9.4 weeks)
- ▶ Hips - 37 patients (15.2 weeks day, 4.6 weeks inpatient)
- ▶ Knees - 86 patients (21.1 weeks day surgery)
- ▶ Orthopedic - 579 patients (3.5 weeks day, 0.5 weeks inpatient)

PGRH uses only four or five of its 10 ORs. Elective surgery is done at PGRH until 3:30 pm