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Waiting Your Turn

Wait Times for Health Care in Canada 2012 Report

22nd Edition

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Key findings

- Specialist physicians surveyed across 12 specialties and 10 Canadian provinces report a total waiting time of 17.7 weeks between referral from a general practitioner and elective treatment in 2012.
- Patients in Ontario experience the shortest wait (14.9 weeks) followed by Quebec (16.6 weeks), and British Columbia (17.0 weeks).
- Patients wait longest for orthopaedic surgery (39.6 weeks) and wait least for medical oncology treatment (4.1 weeks).
- After an appointment with a specialist, Canadians wait approximately 3 weeks longer than what physicians believe is "reasonable" for elective treatment .
- In 2012, throughout the provinces people are waiting for an estimated 870,462 procedures. Assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.5 percent of Canadians are waiting for treatment.
- Only 10.3 percent of patients are on waiting lists because they requested a delay or postponement.

Précis

This edition of *Waiting Your Turn* indicates that waiting times for elective medical treatment have decreased since last year. Specialist physicians surveyed across 12 specialties and 10 Canadian provinces report a total waiting time of 17.7 weeks between referral from a general practitioner and receipt of elective treatment.

Wait times between 2011 and 2012 decreased in both the segment between referral by a general practitioner and consultation with a specialist (falling to 8.5 weeks from 9.5 weeks in 2011), and the segment between a consultation with a specialist and receipt of treatment (falling to 9.3 weeks from 9.5 weeks in 2011). While wait times have fallen overall, physicians themselves believe that Canadians wait approximately 3 weeks longer than what they consider is clinically "reasonable" for elective treatment after an appointment with a specialist.

There is also a great deal of variation in the total waiting time faced by patients across the provinces. While Ontario reports the shortest total wait in 2012 (14.9 weeks); New Brunswick reports the longest at 35.1 weeks. The same is true of variation among specialties. Patients wait longest between a GP referral and orthopaedic surgery (39.6 weeks), while those waiting for medical oncology begin treatment in 4.1 weeks.

It is estimated that in 2012, across all 10 provinces people are waiting for an estimated 870,462 procedures. This means that, assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.5 percent of Canadians are waiting for treatment.

Importantly, physicians report that only about 10.3 percent of their patients are on a waiting list because they requested a delay or postponement.

The results of this year's survey indicate that despite provincial wait times reduction strategies and high levels of health expenditure, it is clear that patients in Canada continue to wait too long to receive medically necessary treatment.

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Acknowledgments

This edition of *Waiting Your Turn: Wait Times for Health Care in Canada* draws extensively on previous editions. As such, the authors would like to pay special tribute and thanks to **Michael Walker**, who is responsible for helping navigate the beginnings of wait time measurement in Canada, and who authored or co-authored the report for almost two decades.

We are also pleased to acknowledge the important contributions of **Steven Globerman**, **Maureen Hazel**, **Joanna Miyake**, **Cynthia Ramsay**, **Mark Rovere, Brett J. Skinner, Greg Wilson**, and **Martin Zelder** in completing earlier versions of the survey and in building the base of knowledge that is incorporated into this publication.

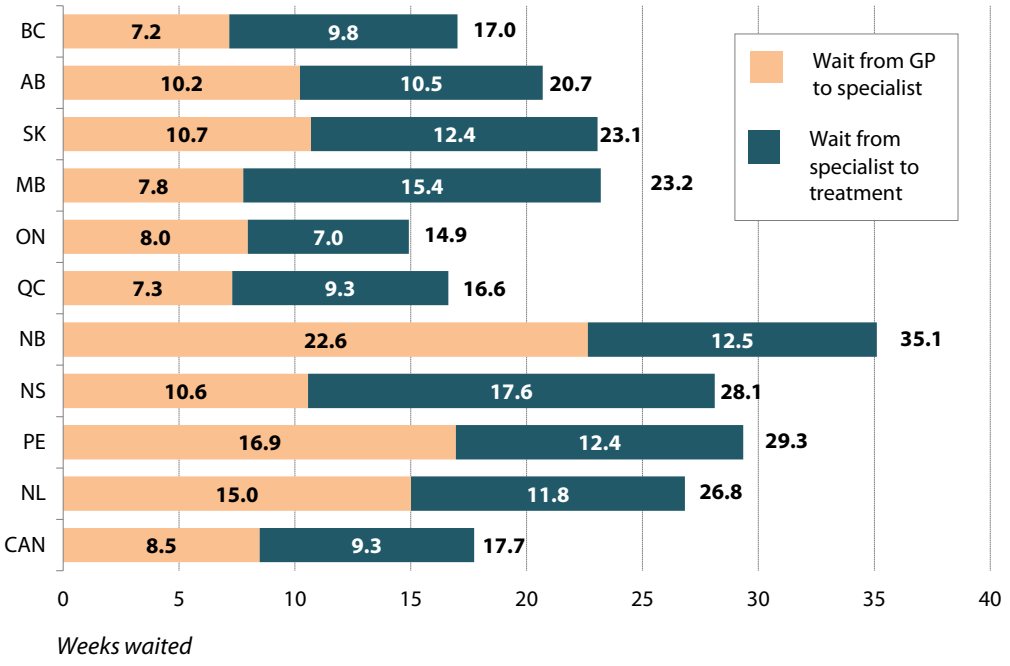
Findings

Total wait times

The Fraser Institute's twenty-second annual waiting list survey finds that wait times[1] for surgical and other therapeutic treatments have decreased in 2012. The total waiting time between referral from a general practitioner and delivery of elective treatment by a specialist, averaged across all 12 specialties and 10 provinces surveyed, has fallen from 19.0 weeks in 2011 to 17.7 weeks in 2012. Compared to 1993, the total waiting time in 2012 is 91 percent longer.

This nationwide improvement in access reflects waiting time decreases in seven provinces, while concealing increases in Ontario, New Brunswick and Newfoundland & Labrador.

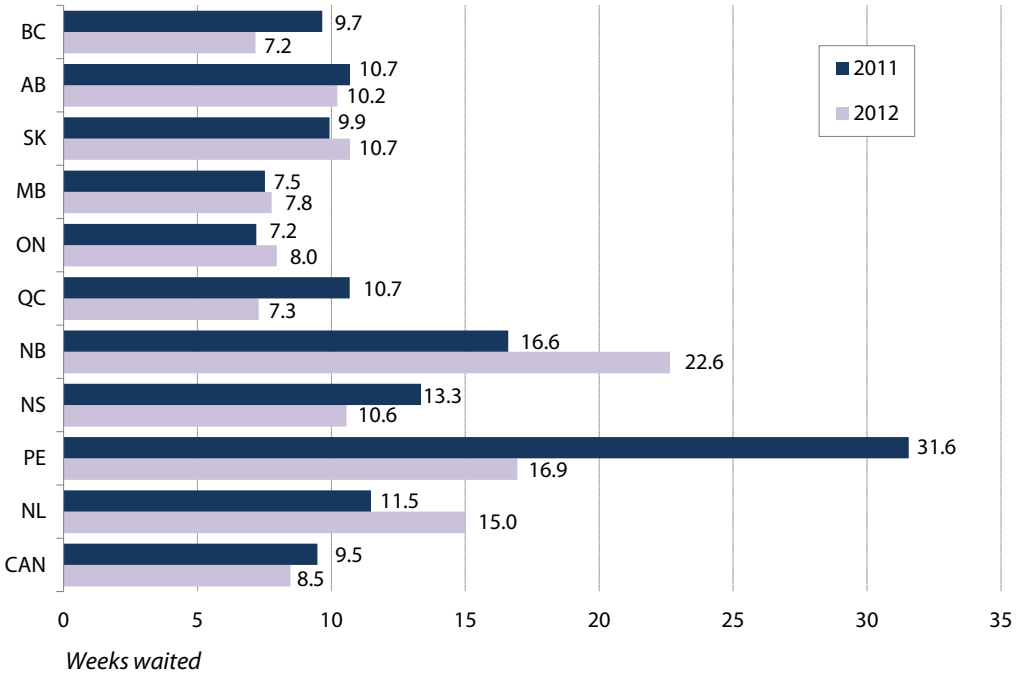
Chart 1: Median Wait by Province in 2012
Weeks Waited from Referral by GP to Treatment



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012.
Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.

1 For a further explanation of how *Waiting Your Turn* measures wait times, see the "Method" section.

Chart 2: Waiting By Province in 2011 and 2012
Weeks Waited from Referral by GP to Appointment with Specialist



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012.

Ontario reports the shortest total wait in 2012 (14.9 weeks), followed by Quebec (16.6 weeks), and British Columbia (17.0 weeks). New Brunswick has the longest total wait at 35.1 weeks, followed by Prince Edward Island (29.3 weeks), and Nova Scotia (28.1 weeks) (see table 2 and chart 1).

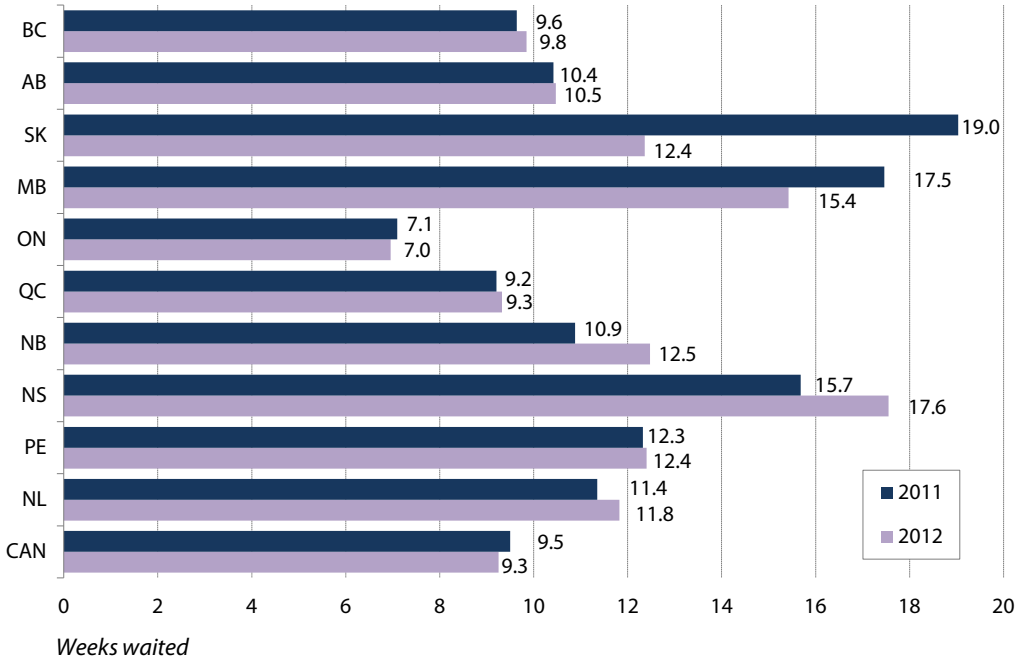
Wait time by segment

Total wait time can be examined in two consecutive segments:

1. The first segment occurs from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist.
2. The second segment occurs from the consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment.

The reduction in waiting time between 2011 and 2012 results from a decrease in both segments.

Chart 3: Waiting by Province in 2011 and 2012
Weeks Waited from Appointment with Specialist to Treatment, by Province

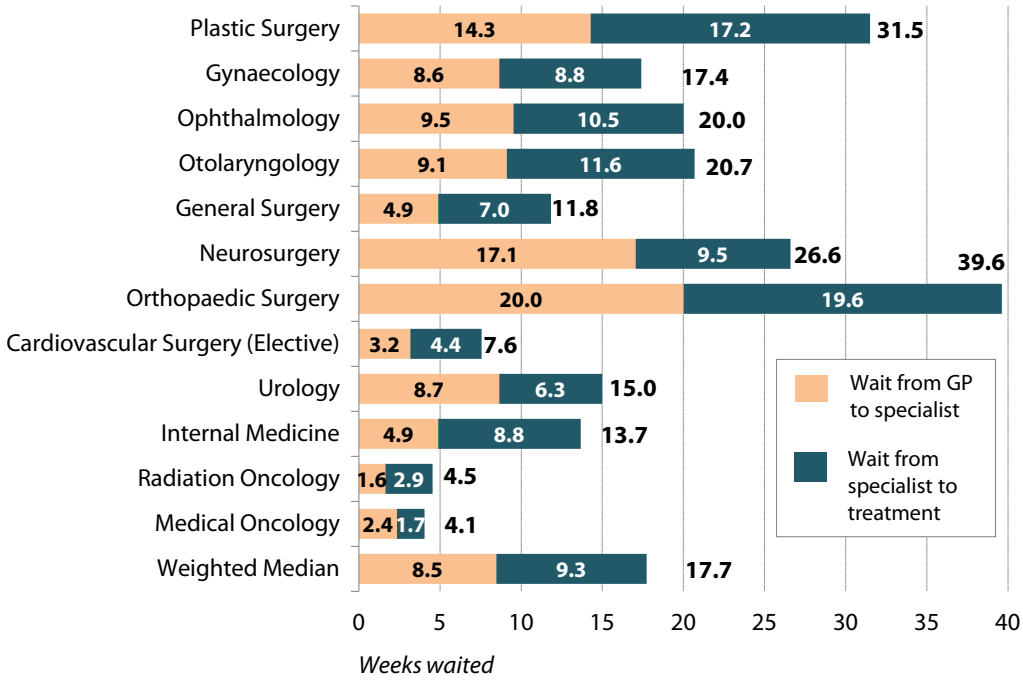


Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012.

The waiting time in the first segment, from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist, has fallen from 9.5 weeks in 2011 to 8.5 weeks in 2012. Nevertheless, this wait time is 129 percent longer than in 1993, when it was 3.7 weeks (see graphs 1 and 2). The waiting time to see a specialist has decreased in five provinces since 2011, but has risen in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland & Labrador (see chart 2). The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in British Columbia (7.2 weeks), Quebec (7.3 weeks), and Manitoba (7.8 weeks). The longest waits for specialist consultations occur in New Brunswick (22.6 weeks), Prince Edward Island (16.9 weeks), and Newfoundland & Labrador (15.0 weeks) (see table 3).

The waiting time in the second segment, from consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment, has fallen from 9.5 weeks in 2011 to 9.3 weeks in 2012. This portion of waiting is 65 percent longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks (see graphs 3 and 4). Interestingly, waiting times from specialist consultation to treatment have increased in seven provinces, falling only in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, and Ontario. The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in

Chart 4: Median Wait by Specialty in 2012
Weeks Waited from Referral by GP to Treatment



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012.
Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.

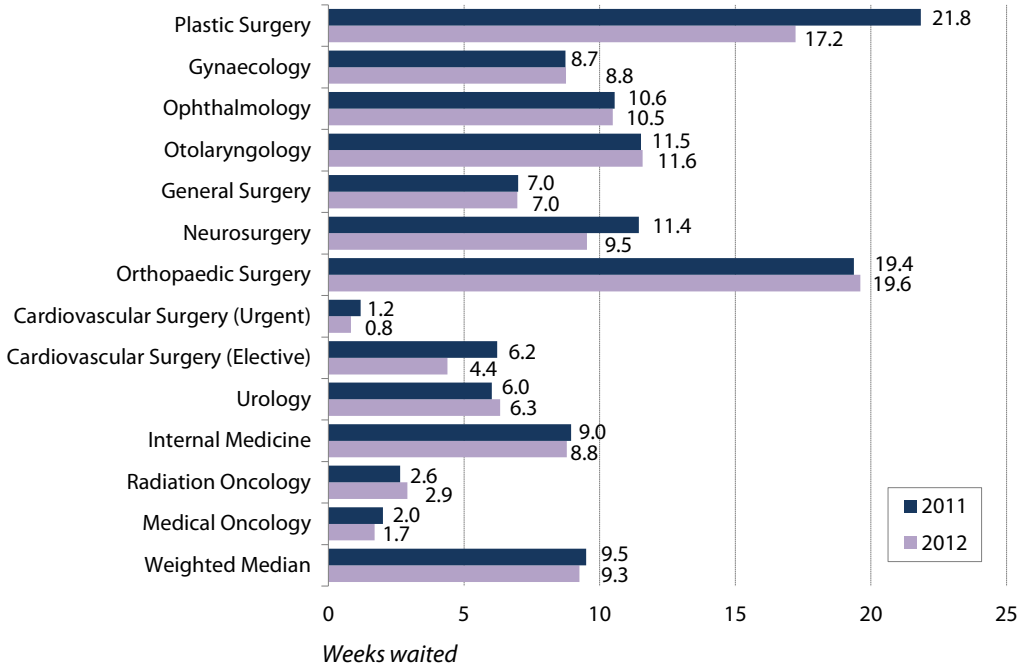
Ontario (7.0 weeks), Quebec (9.3 weeks), and British Columbia (9.8 weeks), while the longest such waits exist in Nova Scotia (17.6 weeks), Manitoba (15.4 weeks), and New Brunswick (12.5 weeks) (see table 4).

Waiting by specialty

Among the various specialties, the shortest total waits exist for medical oncology (4.1 weeks), radiation oncology (4.5 weeks), and elective cardiovascular surgery (7.6 weeks). Conversely, patients wait longest between a GP referral and orthopaedic surgery (39.6 weeks), plastic surgery (31.5 weeks), and neurosurgery (26.6 weeks) (see table 2 and chart 4). The largest decreases in waits between 2011 and 2012 have been for neurosurgery (-11.7 weeks), plastic surgery (-10.1 weeks), and elective cardiovascular surgery (-2.7 weeks). Such decreases are offset by a deterioration for patients receiving treatment in the fields of orthopaedic surgery (+0.6 weeks) and urology (+0.5 weeks).

Breaking waiting time down into its two components, there is also variation among specialties. With regard to the first segment, the shortest waits are in radiation

Chart 5: Waiting by Province in 2011 and 2012
Weeks Waited from Appointment with Specialist to Treatment, by Specialty



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012.

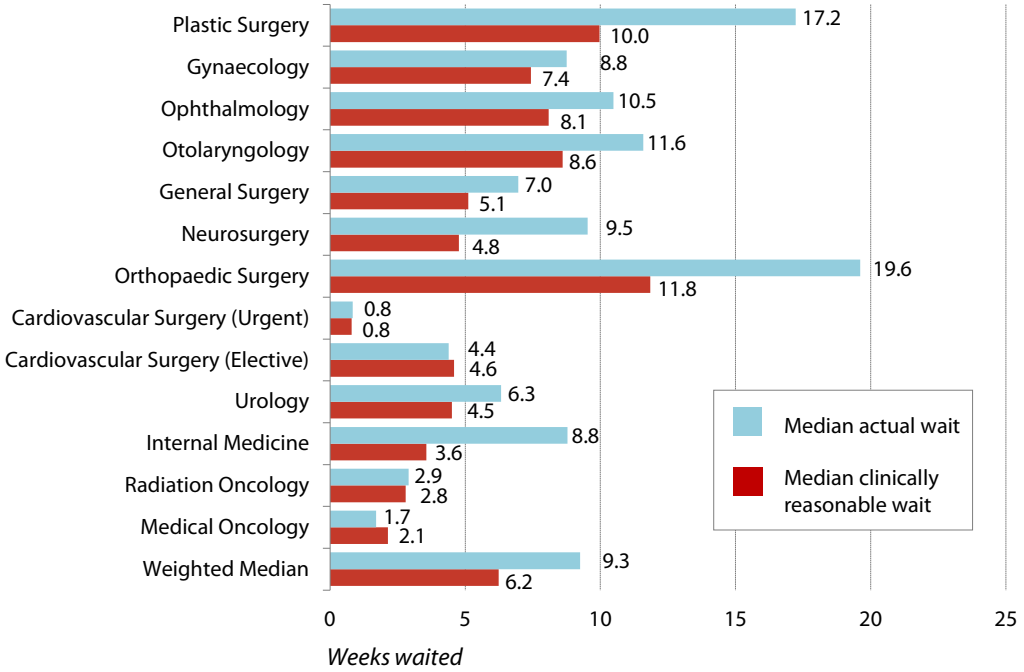
oncology (1.6 weeks), medical oncology (2.4 weeks), and cardiovascular surgery (3.2 weeks). Meanwhile, the longest waits are for orthopaedic surgery (20.0 weeks), neurosurgery (17.1 weeks), and plastic surgery (14.3 weeks) (see table 3).

For the second segment, patients wait the shortest intervals for urgent cardiovascular surgery (0.8 weeks), medical oncology (1.7 weeks), and radiation oncology (2.9 weeks). They wait longest for orthopaedic surgery (19.6 weeks), plastic surgery (17.2 weeks), and otolaryngology (11.6 weeks) (see table 4 and chart 5). Median wait times for specific procedures within a specialty, by province, are shown in tables 5a-5l.

Comparison between clinically "reasonable" and actual waiting times

Specialists are also surveyed as to what they regard as clinically "reasonable" waiting times in the second segment covering the time spent from specialist consultation to delivery of treatment. Out of the 104 categories (some comparisons were precluded by missing data), actual waiting time (table 4) exceeds reasonable waiting time (table 8) in 73 percent of the comparisons. Averaged across all specialties, Ontario and New

Chart 6: Median Actual Wait Versus Median Clinically Reasonable Wait by Specialty for Canada: Weeks Waited from Appointment with Specialist to Treatment in 2012



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012.

Brunswick have come closest to meeting the standard of "reasonable" wait times. Their actual second segment waits only exceed the corresponding "reasonable" values by 19 and 31 percent, respectively, which are smaller gaps than in the other provinces (see table 10). These two provinces, however, achieve their performance by different means: the "reasonable" wait time in New Brunswick is the longest in Canada at 9.5 weeks, while the "reasonable" wait time in Ontario is among Canada's shortest at 5.8 weeks (only British Columbia reported a shorter "reasonable" wait time of 5.5 weeks). Physicians in Quebec and Newfoundland & Labrador also hold relatively more stringent standards as to what is "reasonable." The greatest difference between these two values across all provinces for a specialty is in orthopaedic surgery, where the actual waiting time is about 7.8 weeks longer than what is considered to be "reasonable" by specialists (see chart 6).[2] Median reasonable wait times for specific procedures within a specialty, by province, are shown in tables 9a-9l.

2 The greatest proportional difference for a specialty is in Internal Medicine, where the actual waiting time exceeds the corresponding reasonable value by almost 147 percent.

Chart 7: Waiting for Technology: Weeks Waited to Receive Selected Diagnostic Tests in 2010, 2011, and 2012

	CT-Scan			MRI			Ultrasound		
Province	**2012**	**2011**	**2010**	**2012**	**2011**	**2010**	**2012**	**2011**	**2010**
British Columbia	4.0	4.0	5.0	12.0	16.0	16.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Alberta	4.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	10.0	11.5	2.0	2.5	3.0
Saskatchewan	4.0	6.0	5.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	3.0	4.0	3.0
Manitoba	4.0	5.0	4.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	4.8	6.0	4.0
Ontario	3.0	3.5	4.0	6.0	6.0	7.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Quebec	4.0	5.0	4.0	9.5	10.0	10.0	6.0	8.0	8.0
New Brunswick	4.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	6.0	6.0
Nova Scotia	4.0	4.0	5.5	12.0	8.0	11.5	5.0	6.0	6.5
P.E.I.	8.0	4.0	5.0	16.0	10.0	8.0	6.5	12.0	4.5
Newfoundland	5.0	3.0	6.0	11.0	12.0	11.0	6.0	18.0	6.0
Canada	3.7	4.2	4.2	8.4	9.2	9.8	3.7	4.6	4.5

Note: Links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Waiting for diagnostic and therapeutic technology

Patients also experience significant waiting times for various diagnostic technologies across the provinces. The wait for a computed tomography (CT) scan has decreased to 3.7 weeks in 2012 from 4.2 weeks in 2011. Ontario has the shortest wait for a CT scan (3.0 weeks), while the longest wait occurs in Prince Edward Island (8.0 weeks). The wait for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan has decreased to 8.4 weeks in 2012 from 9.2 weeks in 2011. Patients in Ontario experience the shortest wait for an MRI (6.0 weeks), while residents of Prince Edward Island wait longest (16.0 weeks). Finally, the wait for an ultrasound has fallen to 3.7 weeks from 4.6 weeks in 2011. Ontario and Alberta have the shortest wait for an ultrasound (2.0 weeks), while New Brunswick has the longest ultrasound waiting time: 8.0 weeks (see chart 7).

Numbers of procedures for which people are waiting

This study estimates that across the 10 provinces, the total number of procedures for which people are waiting in 2012 is 870,462 (see table 12; table 14 presents the numbers for the provinces on a population adjusted basis), a decrease of 7.5 percent from

the estimated 941,321 procedures in 2011. The estimated number of procedures for which people are waiting has decreased in five provinces, but has risen in British Columbia, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland & Labrador. Assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.5 percent of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2012, which varies from a low of 1.9 percent in Ontario to a high of 6.1 percent in Nova Scotia.[3] Tables 13a-13l show the number of procedures for which people are waiting within a specialty, by province.

3 These numbers should be interpreted with caution, especially for Saskatchewan. As a result of discussions with provincial authorities in 2002, counts of "the number of patients waiting for surgery" have been replaced with the "number of procedures for which patients are waiting." There do not, however, appear to be significant systematic differences between the numbers of "procedures for which people are waiting" estimated in this edition of *Waiting Your Turn* and counts of "patients waiting" reported by provincial ministries.

Method

This study replicates methods used in previous editions. The data for this issue of *Waiting Your Turn* were collected between January 11th and May 7th, 2012. Survey questionnaires[4] were sent to practitioners in 12 different medical specialties: plastic surgery, gynaecology, ophthalmology, otolaryngology, general surgery, neurosurgery, orthopaedic surgery, cardiovascular surgery, urology, internal medicine, radiation oncology, and medical oncology. This year, the overall response rate was 18 percent (see table 1). The major findings from the survey responses are summarized in tables 2 through 15.

This study is designed to estimate the wait for elective treatment.[5] Waiting time is calculated as the median of physician responses. The median is calculated by ranking specialists' responses in either ascending or descending order, and determining the middle value.[6]

The provincial weighted medians, for each specialty, reported in the last line of tables 5a through 5l, are calculated by multiplying the median wait for each procedure (e.g., mammoplasty, neurolysis, etc., for plastic surgery) by a weight—the fraction of all surgeries within that specialty constituted by that procedure. The sum of these multiplied terms forms the weighted median for that province and specialty (an analogous method is used for tables 9a through 9l).

To obtain the provincial medians (displayed in the last row of tables 2, 3, 4, and 8), the 12 specialty medians are each weighted by a ratio—the number of procedures done in that specialty in the province, divided by the total number of procedures done by specialists of all types in the province. To obtain the national medians (displayed in the last column of tables 2, 3, 4, and 8) we use a similar ratio—the number of procedures done in that specialty in the province, divided by the total number of procedures done by specialists in that specialty across all provinces.

To estimate the number of procedures for which people are waiting, the total annual number of procedures is divided by 52 (weeks per year) and then multiplied by the Fraser Institute's estimate of the actual provincial average number of weeks waited. This means that a waiting period of one month implies that, on average, patients are

4 The Cornerstone Group of Companies provided mailing lists, drawn from the Canadian Medical Association's membership rolls. Specialists were offered a chance to win one of two iPad 2s or one of two $500 cash prizes (to be randomly awarded) as an inducement to respond. Physicians were contacted via letter-mail, facsimile, and telephone.

5 Emergent, urgent, and elective wait times are measured for cardiovascular surgery.

6 For an even-numbered group of respondents, the median is the average of the two middle values.

waiting one-twelfth of a year for surgery. Therefore, the next person added to the list would find one-twelfth of a year's patients ahead of him or her in the queue. The main assumption underlying this estimate is that the number of surgeries performed will neither increase nor decrease within the year in response to waiting lists.

The number of non-emergency procedures for which people are waiting that were not included in the survey is also calculated, and is listed in table 12 as the "residual" number of procedures for which people are waiting. To estimate this residual number, the number of non-emergency operations not contained in the survey that are done in each province annually must be used. This residual number of operations (compiled from the CIHI data) is then divided by 52 (weeks) and multiplied by each province's weighted median waiting time for all specialties.

This study's weighting of medians and the estimation of the number of procedures for which patients are waiting are based on data from the Canadian Institute for Health Information's (CIHI) Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) and National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) for 2010-2011. This year's report also incorporates an improvement[7] in the methodology used to weight medians and estimate the number of procedures for which patients are waiting across provinces. Following Alberta's submission of data to the CIHI this year[8], Quebec is now the only province that does not provide the CIHI with discharge data for same-day surgeries. As a result, the authors have made a pro-rated estimate of same-day surgeries in Quebec using the number of acute surgeries performed in the province.

There are a number of minor problems in matching the CIHI's categories of operations to those reported in the Fraser Institute survey. In a few instances, an operation such as rhinoplasty is listed under more than one specialty in *Waiting Your Turn*. In these cases, we divide the number of patients annually undergoing this type of operation among specialties according to the proportion of specialists in each of the overlapping specialties; e.g., if plastic surgeons constitute 75 percent of the group of specialists performing rhinoplasties, then the number of rhinoplasties counted under plastic surgery is the total multiplied by 0.75. A second problem is that, in some cases, an operation listed in the *Waiting Your Turn* questionnaire has no direct match in the CIHI tabulation. An example is ophthalmologic surgery for glaucoma, which is not categorized separately in the CIHI discharge abstract data. In these cases, we make no estimate of the number of patients waiting for these operations.

Finally, the Fraser Institute's cardiovascular surgery questionnaire, following the traditional classification by which patients are prioritized, has distinguished among emergent, urgent, and elective patients. However, in discussing the situation with phy-

7 Such improvements may alter estimates of wait times and the number of patients waiting for surgery in certain provinces, thus potentially hampering accurate year-to-year comparisons.

8 In previous years the authors had to also make this pro-rated estimate for Alberta (see *Waiting Your Turn,* 2011, for example).

sicians and hospital administrators, it became clear that these classifications are not standardized across provinces. Decisions as to how to group patients were thus left to responding physicians and heart centres. Direct comparisons among provinces using these categories should, therefore, be made tentatively.

Verification of data

Verification of current data with governments

On October 10, 2012, we sent preliminary data to provincial ministries of health, and to provincial cancer and cardiac agencies. As of November 5, 2012, we have received replies from provincial health ministries in Alberta, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and Newfoundland & Labrador. A list of links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in Appendix A.

Many provinces measure the waiting time as the time between the date on which a treatment was scheduled (or booked) and the date of the treatment. The Fraser Institute intends to assist those seeking treatment, and those evaluating waiting times, by providing comprehensive data on the entire wait a person seeking treatment can expect. Accordingly, the Institute measures the time between the decision of the specialist that treatment is required and treatment being received as well as the time between general practitioner referral and consultation with a specialist.

Alberta

The Alberta Wait Times Reporting web site defines a wait time as "the time between the decision date (when a patient and physician decide that a service is required) and the date the procedure or test is performed" and is calculated using "data from people served in the three months prior to the report date" (Alberta Health and Wellness, 2012b). This calculation "excludes people who voluntarily delayed their procedure or test, had a scheduled follow-up, or those who received emergency care" (Alberta Health and Wellness, 2012b). The Fraser Institute reports prospective median waiting times for elective procedures from the specialist's decision to treat the patient.

There is a substantial difference between the measurement of prospective waiting times (the expected waiting time for the next patient) and retrospective waiting times (the amount of time the patient actually waited for surgery). Notably, the latter measure includes any adjustments in waiting times that were the result of a deterioration in the patient's condition (other than those that resulted in emergency care) or from adjustments that resulted from other factors (emergency cases using up operating room time, an earlier operating slot becoming available, etc.).

Despite these differences in methodology, it appears that the prospective elective wait times from the Fraser Institute's waiting list survey are in many cases broadly similar to the retrospective elective waiting times presented on the Alberta Wait Times Reporting web site (see chart 8). However, the Institute's measurements are notably

Chart 8: Comparison of Waiting Times in Alberta, Specialist to Treatment, 2012 (in weeks)

Specialty/Procedure	AB Health Median Wait Time[1]	Fraser Institute Median Wait[2]
Cataract surgery, first eye only	11.0	13.0
Interventions on the Eyelid	10.0	11.0
Tonsillectomy	12.0	18.0
Mastectomy: Removal of the Breast	3.0	3.0
Gall bladder removal	8.0	9.0
Hernia repair	11.0	17.0 (General Surgery) 8.0 (Urology)
Interventions on the Large Intestine	10.0	6.0
Interventions on the Small Intestine	10.0	
Varicose Vein (Leg) Surgery	12.0	16.0
Hysterectomy	11.0	12.0
Tubal Ligation	9.0	11.5
Interventions on the Brain and Spinal Cord	9.0	14.0
Head, Nasal Cavity and Sinuses	13.0	16.0
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) Urgent	1.0	1.0 (Urgent)
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) Semi-Urgent	2.4	
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) Scheduled	6.7	6.0 (Elective)
Heart valve surgery Urgent	1.0	1.0 (Urgent)
Heart valve surgery Semi-Urgent	8.0	
Heart valve surgery Non-Urgent	5.0	8.0 (Elective)
Implantation of pacemaker and other devices Urgent	1.0	1.0 (Urgent)
Implantation of pacemaker and other devices Semi-Urgent	3.0	
Implantation of pacemaker and other devices Non-Urgent	6.0	3.0 (Elective)
Referral to First Consult (Radiation Oncologist)	1.7	3.0
Ready-to-Treat to First Radiation Therapy (Radiation Oncologist)	0.9	2.3
Referral to First Consult (Medical Oncologist)	2.0	1.5

[1]50th percentile wait time (weeks). Measured from time between when a patient and specialist decide that a procedure or diagnostic test is required and the date the procedure or test is performed. Wait times are for elective conditions, defined as "Urgency III" by Alberta Health and Wellness (unless specified otherwise). Data are presented for March 2012.
[2]Prospective Median Wait (weeks) for treatment after appointment with a specialist, The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012.
Sources: Alberta Health and Wellness (http://waittimes.alberta.ca/); and the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012

longer than those compiled by Alberta Health and Wellness for tonsillectomies, varicose vein surgeries, interventions on the brain and spinal cord, head, nasal cavity & sinuses, and non-urgent heart valve surgery.

British Columbia

In British Columbia, the Ministry of Health Services defines waiting time in such a way that its estimates are shorter than those in this survey. Specifically, the ministry defines a wait for adult elective-surgery as the interval beginning "when the operating room booking information for a case is received by the hospital" and ending "when either the surgery is performed; or, the case is removed from the wait list for reasons determined by the surgeon and the patient" (British Columbia Ministry of Health, 2012b).[9] Not only does this definition omit waiting time between GP and specialist (which the Institute's survey includes in the total), but it also understates the patient's actual waiting time between seeing a specialist and receiving treatment because it will not include any delays between the decision to treat the patient and the formal booking/recording for that patient. In addition, because some hospitals may only book a few months ahead, this method of measuring waiting lists likely omits a substantial fraction of patients with waits beyond the booking period (see Ramsay, 1998).

These differences in methodology suggest that the wait times published on the BC Ministry of Health Services' web site may be substantially shorter than those measured by the Fraser Institute. However, in years past, the ministry's wait times have also been found to be remarkably low when compared to the number of procedures actually completed and the number of patients reported to be waiting for treatment.

Charts 9 and 10 show that the wait times recently presented on the ministry's website continue to be potentially inaccurate.

For example, the ministry reports a waiting time of 10.9 weeks for orthopaedic surgery for the three months ending March 31. The web site also shows 17,672 patients waiting for surgery at that time (see charts 9 and 10). In order for the waiting time for the next patient placed on the waiting list to be 10.9 weeks, the province would have to provide about 1,621 procedures per week, approximately twice the number of surgeries delivered weekly during the 90 days prior to March 31 (see chart 9).

Either there are fewer people waiting, significantly more surgeries being completed, or the government's number of a 10.9-week wait for orthopaedic surgery is incorrect. Specialty by specialty, month in and month out, the median wait figures reported by the ministry remain consistently, and surprisingly, lower than expected given the number of patients waiting and the number of procedures that can reason-

9 The Surgical Patient Registry in BC allows health authorities to collect information about the dates that patients have identified as periods of time during which they are unavailable for surgery. These time periods are deducted from the patient's wait time for surgery (British Columbia Ministry of Health, 2012b).

Chart 9: Number of Patients Waiting for Care in British Columbia in 2012

Specialty/Procedure (BC Health)	Patients waiting[1]	Fraser Institute estimate	Patients served in previous 90 days (proximate period)[2]	Procedures per week	Specialty/ Procedure (FI)
Plastic Surgery	4,112	4,925	2,649	204	Plastic Surgery
Breast Reconstruction	648	3,655	259	20	Mammoplasty
Breast Reduction	1,245		596	46	
Skin Surgery	132	270	102	8	Scar Revision
Skin Tumour Removal	707	—	693	53	Skin Cancers and other Tumors
Gynaecology	9,281	3,367	7,198	554	Gynaecology
D&C and Related Surgery	766	715	659	51	Dilation & Curettage
Uterine Surgery	2,336	1,035	2,646	204	Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)
		620			Hysteroscopic Procedures
Fallopian Tube/Ovarian Surgery	881	575	703	54	Tubal Ligation
Vaginal Repair	655	203	329	25	Vaginal Repair
Laparoscopy	455	200	467	36	Laparoscopic Procedures
Ophthalmology	12,774	17,229	15,017	1,155	Ophthalmology
Cataract Surgery	11,230	15,419	13,210	1,016	Cataract Removal
Corneal Transplant	319[3a]	127	187[3b]	14	Cornea Transplant
Lens & Vitreous (non-cataract) Surgery	584	517	764	59	Retina, Choroid, Vitreous
Otolaryngology	6,180	6,211	2,912	224	Otolaryngology
Tympanoplasty	294	250	117	9	Tympanoplasty
Thyroidectomy	326	913	381	29	Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands
Tonsillectomy	578	1,560	273	21	Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy
Nasal Surgery	2,189	930	774	60	Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery[4a]
Sinus Surgery	1,518	1,933	510	39	Operations on Nasal Sinuses
General Surgery	11,840	9,813	10,897	838	General Surgery
Breast Biopsy	244	9	559	43	Breast Biopsy
Hernia Repair—Abdominal	3,946	1,186	2,995	230	Hernia/Hydrocele[4b]
Hernia Repair—Hiatal	165		46	4	
Mastectomy	364	261	981	75	Mastectomy
Cholecystectomy	1,681	812	1,587	122	Cholecystectomy

Chart 9: Number of Patients Waiting for Care in British Columbia in 2012

Specialty/Procedure (BC Health)	Patients waiting[1]	Fraser Institute estimate	Patients served in previous 90 days (proximate period)[2]	Procedures per week	Specialty/ Procedure (FI)
Varicose Veins Ligation and Stripping	1,884	120	354	27	Varicose Veins
Neurosurgery	1,658	1,243	1,254	96	Neurosurgery
Orthopaedic Surgery	17,672	16,701	10,121	779	Orthopaedic Surgery
Knee Arthroscopy	3,467	1,448	2,464	190	Menisectomy/Arthroscopy
Foot/Ankle Surgery	316		150	12	
Knee—ACL Repair	814		485	37	
Hip Replacement	2,150	9,915	1,407	108	Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)
Knee Replacement	4,038		1,899	146	
Thoracic Surgery	429	369	617	47	Cardiovascular Surgery
Vascular Surgery	2,327		1,039	80	
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (Priority 2)	14	36	31	2	Coronary Artery Bypass Graft
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (Priority 3)	55		143	11	
Aortic Aneurysm Repair	56	2	90	7	Aneurysm Surgery[4c]
Endarterectomy	142	58	184	14	Carotid Endarterectomy[4d]
Urology	4,956	5,415	5,767	444	Urology
Prostate Surgery	1,234	927	1,402	108	Non-Radical Prostatectomy
		125		108	Radical Prostatectomy
Radiation Oncology	389[3a]	52	2,769[3c]	213	Radiation Oncology

[1]Count as at March 31, 2012
[2]Cases completed in 3 months prior to March 31, 2012.
[3a]Count as at Feb 29, 2012.
[3b]Cases completed in 3 months prior to Feb 29, 2012
[3c]Cases completed in 3 months prior to Dec 31, 2011.
[4a]The Fraser Institute measures the number of Rhinoplasty procedures for which patients are waiting in two surgical areas: Otolaryngology and Plastic Surgery. The number of procedures in Otolaryngology is presented here. The number of procedures in Plastic Surgery is 518.
[4b]The Fraser Institute measures the number of Hernia/Hydrocele procedures for which patients are waiting in two surgical areas: General Surgery and Urology. The number of procedures in General Surgery is presented here. The number of procedures in Urology is 900.
[4c]The Fraser Institute measures the number of Aneurysm procedures for which patients are waiting in three surgical areas: General Surgery, Neurosurgery, and Cardiovascular Surgery. The number of procedures for which patients are waiting in Cardiovascular Surgery are presented here. The number of procedures for which patients are waiting in Neurosurgery is 6.
[4d]The Fraser Institute measures the number of Carotid Endarterectomy procedures for which people are waiting in two surgical areas: Neurosurgery and Cardiovascular Surgery. The number of procedures for which people are waiting in Cardiovascular Surgery are presented here. The number of procedures for which people are waiting in Neurosurgery is 105.
Sources: British Columbia Ministry of Health, 2012a; and The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012.

Chart 10: Comparison of Reported Waiting Times in British Columbia, Specialist to Treatment in 2012 (weeks)

Specialty/ Procedure	BC Health median wait[1]	Implied 2012 expected wait[2]	Fraser Institute median wait[3]	Specialty/ Procedure (FI)
Plastic Surgery	5.0	20.2	29.3	Plastic Surgery
Breast Reconstruction	4.7	32.5	52.0	Mammoplasty
Breast Reduction	12.0	27.2		
Skin Surgery	3.0	16.8	11.0	Scar Revision
Skin Tumour Removal	3.9	13.3	4.0	Skin Cancers and other Tumors
Gynaecology	4.9	16.8	7.2	Gynaecology
D&C and Related Surgery	4.1	15.1	5.0	Dilation & Curettage
Uterine Surgery	4.7	11.5	10.0	Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)
			6.0	Hysteroscopic Procedures
Fallopian Tube/Ovarian Surgery	5.4	16.3	8.5	Tubal Ligation
Vaginal Repair	9.9	25.9	11.0	Vaginal Repair
Laparoscopy	4.7	12.7	8.0	Laparoscopic Procedures
Ophthalmology	5.7	11.1	13.6	Ophthalmology
Cataract Surgery	6.0	11.1	16.0	Cataract Removal
Cornea Transplant	12.0[4a]	22.2	12.0	Cornea Transplant
Lens & Vitreous (non-cataract) Surgery	2.6	9.9	3.0	Retina, Choroid, Vitreous
Otolaryngology	9.6	27.6	22.0	Otolaryngology
Tympanoplasty	13.1	32.7	20.0	Tympanoplasty
Thyroidectomy	5.4	11.1	24.0	Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands
Tonsillectomy	9.7	27.5	20.0	Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy
Nasal Surgery	13.0	36.8	25.0	Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery[5a]
Sinus Surgery	19.6	38.7	28.0	Operations on Nasal Sinuses
General Surgery	4.4	14.1	5.5	General Surgery
Breast Biopsy	2.4	5.7	2.3	Breast Biopsy
Hernia Repair—Abdominal	7.9	17.1	6.0	Hernia/Hydrocele[5b]
Hernia Repair—Hiatal	20.8	46.6		
Mastectomy	2.1	4.8	2.0	Mastectomy
Cholecystectomy	5.3	13.8	5.0	Cholecystectomy
Varicose Vein Ligation and Stripping	10.4	69.2	6.0	Varicose Veins

Chart 10: Comparison of Reported Waiting Times in British Columbia, Specialist to Treatment in 2012 (weeks)

Specialty/ Procedure	BC Health median wait[1]	Implied 2012 expected wait[2]	Fraser Institute median wait[3]	Specialty/ Procedure (FI)
Neurosurgery	3.0	17.2	10.5	Neurosurgery
Orthopaedic Surgery	10.9	22.7	21.7	Orthopaedic Surgery
Knee Arthroscopy	8.7	18.3	16.0	Menisectomy/Arthroscopy
Foot/Ankle Surgery	11.9	27.4		
Knee—ACL Repair	10.0	21.8		
Hip Replacement Surgery	14.6	19.9	24.0	Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)
Knee Replacement Surgery	17.6	27.6		
Thoracic Surgery	2.1	9.0	1.7 (U)/ 5.9 (E)	Cardiovascular Surgery
Vascular Surgery	3.4	29.1		
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (Priority 2)	2.6	5.9	0.8 (U)	Coronary Artery Bypass (Urgent)
Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (Priority 3)	4.3	5.0	7.0 (E)	Coronary Artery Bypass (Elective)
Aortic Aneurysm Repair	3.9	8.1	1.3 (U)/ 4.0 (E)	Aneurysm Surgery[5c]
Endarterectomy	3.0	10.0	7.0 (U)/ 32.0 (E)	Carotid Endarterectomy[5d]
Urology	4.3	11.2	5.4	Urology
Prostate Surgery	5.4	11.4	10.0	Non-Radical Prostatectomy
			6.0	Radical Prostatectomy
Radiation Oncology	1.0[4b]	1.8	3.0	Radiation Oncology

Note: U = Urgent; E = Elective.
[1]Median wait for 3 months ending March 31, 2012.
[2]Number of weeks to exhaust the list of patients waiting.
[3]Prospective median wait, national hospital waiting list survey, 2012.
[4a]Median wait for 3 months ending Feb 29, 2012.
[4b]Median wait for 3 months ending Dec 31, 2011.
[5a]The Fraser Institute measures the wait time for Rhinoplasty in two surgical areas: Otolaryngology and Plastic Surgery. The wait time in Otolaryngology is presented here. The wait time in Plastic Surgery is 16.0.
[5b]The Fraser Institute measures the wait time for Hernia/Hydrocele in two surgical areas: General Surgery and Urology. The wait time for in General Surgery is presented here. The wait time in Urology is 10.0.
[5c]The Fraser Institute measures the wait time for Aneurysm Surgery in three surgical areas: General Surgery, Neurosurgery, and Cardiovascular Surgery. The wait time in Cardiovascular Surgery is presented here. The wait time in Neurosurgery is 7.0.
[5d]The Fraser Institute measures wait time for Carotid Endarterectomy in two surgical areas: Neurosurgery and Cardiovascular Surgery. The wait time in Cardiovascular Surgery is presented here. The wait time in Neurosurgery is 21.0.
Sources: British Columbia Ministry of Health, 2012a; and the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012

ably be expected to be performed per week. Chart 9 provides information on the current number of patients waiting for surgery, the Fraser Institute's estimates of the number of procedures for which patients are waiting, and the number of procedures completed in the 90 days preceding March 31, 2012. Chart 10 shows the ministry's published waiting times, the "expected" waiting time for the next patient placed on the waiting list using the number of patients waiting and the number of procedures actually provided weekly, and the Fraser Institute's median waiting time measurements.

For the three months ending March 31, 2012, the government's reported median wait averaged about 40 percent of the "expected" wait, ranging from 12 percent (for vascular surgery) to 86 percent (for coronary artery bypass graft—priority 3).[10] The Institute's median wait time data, meanwhile, averages about 79 percent of the "expected" wait.

It should be noted that the BC Ministry of Health Services has, in years past, found its counts of patients waiting for treatment to be highly problematic. For example, some patients had already been treated and not removed from waiting lists (*Waiting Your Turn*, 2010). This suggests that the "expected" wait may be overstating the wait times in British Columbia. However, the number of patients waiting for treatment would have to drop to about half of the current reported level, on average, in order for the ministry's measurements of waiting times to be consistent with the number of patients waiting and procedures being performed. In other words, the true patient experience in British Columbia likely lies somewhere between the "expected" wait estimated above and the wait time reported by the ministry, which is precisely where the wait times and estimates of procedures for which patients are waiting produced by the Fraser Institute generally lie.

Saskatchewan

The Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network (SSCN) wait list web site provides measures of waiting times from the provincial registry for surgeries in most areas of Saskatchewan. The measures presented by Saskatchewan are for non-emergent surgeries and measure the wait from "the date that the Regional Health Authority receives the booking form from the surgeon until the date that the surgery is performed" (SSCN, 2012b). As noted above, this methodology differs significantly from that used by the Fraser Institute.

One difference between the wait times presented here and those available on the SSCN website is that between measuring at the time a new patient is seen by the specialist, and when the booking for the procedure is actually made. A number of systemic delays can occur between the time the patient is seen by a specialist and the time a

10 These percentages are calculated from exact calculated "expected" wait times. The "expected wait time" is rounded for inclusion in the table.

Chart 11: Comparison between Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network (SSCN) wait list measures and Waiting Your Turn 2012

Specialty/Procedure	SSCN Median Wait[1]	SSCN Elective Wait[2]	Fraser Institute Median
Plastic Surgery	4.7	39.1	56.2
Gynaecology	4.7	18.6	7.7
Ophthalmology	6.0	21.5	17.3
Otolaryngology	7.0	30.1	12.3
General Surgery	2.6	16.1	6.8
Neurosurgery	6.0	27.0	8.6
Orthopaedic Surgery	11.0	25.2	18.6
Cardiovascular Surgery	0.4	6.7	1.5 (Urgent)
Cardiovascular Surgery			12.1 (Elective)
Urology	3.5	16.5	15.5
All Procedures/Specialties	5.0	22.1	12.4

[1]SSCN non-emergent median wait times are retrospectively measured for procedures performed between October 01, 2011 and March 31, 2012.
[2]SSCN Elective wait is measured by eliminating the 0-3 weeks time frame in the weighted average measure. SSCN measures non-emergent surgeries, which includes both urgent and elective. In an attempt to eliminate the measure of urgent procedures, the shortest time frame is removed to allow better comparability with the waiting times presented in *Waiting Your Turn*. More specifically, the SSCN elective wait presented here is a weighted average measure based on the mid-point of each time frame other than the shortest time frame. For example, 43% of patients in Saskatchewan waited less than 3 weeks for Orthopaedic Surgery, 9% waited 4 to 6 weeks, 17% waited 7 weeks to 3 months, 27% waited 4 to 12 months, 3% waited 13 to 18 months, and 1% waited more than 18 months. Removing the percentage of patients treated in the 0-3 week time frame, and taking the midpoints of the remaining time frames to be 5, 10, 34.7, 67.2, and 82 weeks respectively, gives an average elective waiting time of 25.2 weeks.
Sources: Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network wait list website; the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey; and calculations by authors.

booking is made. The first is that there is often a delay to order, complete, and analyze test results (in particular, imaging scans). Another delay relates to the fact that there may be a wait list to make the actual booking. A telephone survey of Saskatchewan physicians conducted by the authors of *Waiting Your Turn* in 2002 revealed that at least some of the physicians did not place their elective patients on the government waiting list until the patients became urgent cases. Thus, waiting times that measure from booking time to actual procedure will not capture the waiting times for testing and any delays in booking that occur.

Chart 12: Comparison between patients waiting according to Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network (SSCN) wait list and procedures for which patients are waiting estimate from Waiting Your Turn, 2012

Specialty	SSCN Count*	FI Estimate
Plastic Surgery	909	1,823
Gynaecology	2,049	1,036
Ophthalmology	4,001	5,242
Otolaryngology	2,033	1,212
General Surgery	2,665	3,222
Neurosurgery	630	269
Orthopaedic Surgery	6,204	3,725
Cardiovascular Surgery	21	67
Urology	723	3,708
Overall Count	21,572	39,070

*SSCN Patients waiting count at March 31, 2012.
Sources: Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network wait list website and the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012.

The crucial difference between the two measures, however, is the inclusion of urgent surgeries. The SSCN website measures waiting times for all non-emergent surgeries (i.e., urgent and elective surgery waits are measured), while *Waiting Your Turn* measures waiting times for only elective surgeries (with the exception of cardiovascular surgery where emergent, urgent, and elective wait times are measured). This means that urgent wait times (which are significantly shorter than elective wait times) are included in the wait time measures available on the SSCN website, but not in those measured by the Fraser Institute.

The resulting conclusion is that the numbers available on the SSCN website are not directly comparable to those measured in *Waiting Your Turn*.

It is, however, possible to construct a measure from SSCN data that is more comparable with that measured by the Fraser Institute. In addition to the non-emergent median wait time measures published on its web site, SSCN also provides data on the proportion of patients (non-emergent) that were treated in several time frames: 0-3 weeks, 4-6 weeks, 7 weeks to 3 months, 4-12 months, 13-18 months, and more than 18 months. By eliminating the proportion of patients treated in the shortest time frame (0-3 weeks), and by taking the mid-points of the remaining times to be 5, 10, 34.7, 67.2, and 82 weeks respectively, it is possible to construct a weighted average "elective" wait time measure for Saskatchewan that should be more comparable with the elective wait

Chart 13: Comparison of Waiting Times in Nova Scotia, Specialist after Referral, 2012

Specialty/Procedure	Median Wait to See a Specialist after Referral (NS Health)[1]	Median Wait to See a Specialist after Referral (Fraser Institute)[2]
Plastic Surgery	9.3	4.0
Obstetrics/Gynaecology	5.9	4.8
Ophthalmology	9.1	12.0
Otolaryngology (ENT)	6.3	10.5
General Surgery	4.7	6.5
Neurosurgery	6.3	40.0
Orthopaedic	9.7	36.0
Cardiac Surgery	3.6	13.0
Thoracic Surgery	3.1	
Vascular Surgery	4.7	
Urology	5.3	6.3
Medical Oncology	2.0-2.9	3.8

[1]Median wait to see a specialist after referral (in weeks) is based on new consultations received during the time frame for patients who were deemed to require surgery (April 1, 2012 - September 30, 2012).
[2]Prospective median waiting times for new patients seeking a routine office consultation, Fraser Institute waiting list survey, 2012.
Sources: Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, personal communication, October 24, 2012; and the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012

times measured by the Fraser Institute.[11] The calculated SSCN elective wait time measure is shown in chart 11. This comparison suggests that the Fraser Institute's measures neither necessarily overstate nor necessarily understate the actual patient experience in Saskatchewan. Notably, only in the cases of plastic surgery and elective cardiovascular surgery are the Institute's estimates longer than the SSCN elective wait time measure.

With respect to the estimates of procedures for which patients are waiting, the Fraser Institute's estimates are notably higher than the SSCN's counts of patients waiting for care in five of the nine specialties compared and the overall count (see chart 12). However, much of this disparity may arise from differences in what is being measured:

11 The authors of this report acknowledge the possibility that some elective procedures may have been performed in the 0-3 week time frame, and that their elimination from the analysis may result in a calculated elective wait that may be larger than the true wait for elective procedures. At the same time, assigning an 82 week wait for patients waiting *any* amount of time more than 18 months may result in a calculated elective wait time that may be smaller than the true wait for elective procedures.

the SSCN's counts include only patients waiting for procedures done in operating rooms and do not count patients who will be treated in other locations such as procedure rooms, while the Fraser Institute's estimates include counts for all patients treated in hospitals.

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia's Department of Health and Wellness provided the Fraser Institute with their data on the median wait time to see a specialist after referral for the period April 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012. This calculation is based on "new consults received during time frame for patients who were deemed to require surgery" (Nova Scotia De-

Chart 14: Comparison of Waiting Times in Nova Scotia, Treatment after Appointment, 2012

Specialty/Procedure (NS Health)	Median Wait Time for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (NS Health)[1]	Median Wait Time for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (Fraser Institute)[2]	Specialty/Procedure (Fraser Institute)
Plastic Surgery	2.7	27.0	Plastic Surgery
Obstetrics/Gynaecology	6.0	6.2	Gynaecology
Hysterectomy	7.0	7.5	Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)
Tubal Ligation	6.7	6.0	Tubal Ligation
Ophthalmology	8.9	23.6	Ophthalmology
Cataract Surgery	10.6	24.0	Cataract Removal
Glaucoma (Eye Pressure Lowering Surgery)	1.1	9.5	Glaucoma
Strabismus Surgery	21.4	12.0	Strabismus
Otolaryngology (ENT)	6.1	7.4	Otolaryngology
Ear Tubes	5.1	3.8	Myringotomy
Sinus Surgery (FESS)	7.4	6.0	Operations on Nasal Sinuses
Thyroid Surgery	6.6	7.0	Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands
Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy	7.7	11.0	Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy
General Surgery	4.0	9.5	General Surgery
Gallbladder Surgery	4.1	5.0	Cholecystectomy
Hernia Repair	5.3-6.9 (Incisional)	4.5	Hernia/Hydrocele (General Surgery)
		10.5	Hernia/Hydrocele (Urology)

continued next page ...

Chart 14: Comparison of Waiting Times in Nova Scotia, Treatment after Appointment, 2012

Specialty/Procedure (NS Health)	Median Wait Time for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (NS Health)[1]	Median Wait Time for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (Fraser Institute)[2]	Specialty/Procedure (Fraser Institute)
Neurosurgery	1.6	9.5	Neurosurgery
Orthopaedic	10.3	52.7	Orthopaedic Surgery
Knee Scope	8.7	24.0	Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy
Knee Scope with ACL Repair	12.4		
Shoulder Arthroscopy	8.1		
Hip Replacement	19.9	75.0	Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)
Knee Replacement	37.3		
Shoulder Surgery	9.0		
Cardiac Surgery	1.1	1.5 (Urgent) / 4.9 (Elective)	Cardiovascular Surgery
Thoracic Surgery	2.7		
Vascular Surgery	4		
Aneurysm Repair	2.7	1.0	Aneurysm Surgery (Cardiovascular Urgent)
		8.5	Aneurysm Surgery (Cardiovascular Elective)
		14.0	Aneurysm Surgery (Neurosurgery)
Cardiac Valve Replacement	2.0	1.5	Valves & Septa of the Heart (Urgent)
		7	Valves & Septa of the Heart (Elective)
Carotid Endarterectomy	1.4	1.0	Carotid Endarterectomy (Cardiovascular Urgent)
		6.0	Carotid Endarterectomy (Cardiovascular Elective)
		1.5	Carotid Endarterectomy (Neurosurgery)
Urology	2.9	25.7	Urology
Prostatectomy	4.9	3.5	Non-radical Prostatectomy
		3.5	Radical Prostatectomy
Chest Scopes	2.9	8.0	Bronchoscopy

[1]Median wait time for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks) is based on completed surgeries during the time frame, from the date of the surgical request received by the hospital to the date of surgery.
[2]Prospective median wait (in weeks) for treatment after appointment with a specialist, National Waiting List Survey, 2012.
Sources: Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, personal communication, October 24, 2012; and the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012.

partment of Health and Wellness, personal communication, October 24, 2012). By comparison, the Fraser Institute reports prospective median waiting times for new patients seeking a "routine office consultation." Chart 13 gives the data provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Health & Wellness, along with the Fraser Institute's wait times measurements.

In addition, the department also provided the Fraser Institute with data for the median wait time for treatment after an appointment with a specialist for the period April 1, 2012 to September 30, 2012. This calculation is based on "completed surgeries during time frame, from date surgical request was received by hospital to date of surgery" (Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness, personal communication, October 24, 2012). The Fraser Institute, meanwhile, reports prospective median waiting times for elective procedures from the specialist's decision to treat the patient. Chart 14 gives the data provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Health & Wellness, along with the Fraser Institute's wait times measurements.

The methodology used to develop the measures provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness differs significantly from that used by the Fraser Institute. Again, the key differences are the inclusion of urgent surgeries ("non-emergent" wait times as compared to the "elective" wait times measured by the Fraser Institute), the starting of the wait time clock when the booking request is received at the hospital, and the retrospective measurement of wait times compared to the Fraser

Chart 15: Pan-Canadian Benchmark Wait Times and Waiting Your Turn, 2012

Procedure (Pan-Canadian Benchmark/ Waiting Your Turn)	Pan-Canadian Benchmark Wait Time	National Median Wait Time[1] (Range of Provincial Median Wait Times) in weeks	National Median Reasonable Wait Time[1] (Range of Provincial Reasonable Median Wait Times) in weeks
Radiation Therapy/Radiation Oncology	within 4 weeks of patients being ready to treat	2.9 (2.0-4.8)	2.8 (1.1-3.3)
Hip Replacements	within 26 weeks	22.7 (12.0-75.0)	12.6 (12.0-22.0)
Knee Replacements	within 26 weeks	22.7 (12.0-75.0)	12.6 (12.0-22.0)
Cataract Surgery	within 16 weeks for patients who are at high risk	11.1 (8.0-40.0)	8.6 (8.0-12.0)
Cardiac Bypass Surgery	Level I within 2 weeks/ Level II within 6 weeks/ Level III within 26 weeks	Emergent: 0.1 (0.0-0.5)/ Urgent: 0.7 (0.1-1.5)/ Elective: 4.6 (3.0-12.0)	Emergent: 0.0 (0.0-0.1)/ Urgent: 0.9 (0.4-1.5)/ Elective: 4.8 (3.0-12.0)

[1]These wait times were produced for individual procedures using the same methodology used to produce national median wait times for medical specialties described above under "Methodology."
Sources: Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, 2005 and the Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012.

Institute's prospective wait times measurement. As discussed above, these differences mean the numbers provided by the Nova Scotia Department of Health and Wellness are not directly comparable to those measured in *Waiting Your Turn*.

Verification and comparison of earlier data with independent sources

The waiting list data can also be verified by comparison with independently computed estimates, primarily found in academic journals. There exist 95 independent waiting time estimates that can be compared with recent Fraser Institute figures. In 59 of the 95 cases, the Institute figures lie below the comparison values. In only 31 instances does the Institute value exceed the comparison value, and in five cases they are identical. This evidence strongly suggests that the Institute's measurements are not biased upward, but, if anything, may be biased downward, understating actual waiting times. (For further explanation, see *Waiting Your Turn* 2009).

Pan-Canadian benchmarks

Canada's provincial, territorial, and federal governments agreed to a set of common benchmarks for medically necessary treatment on December 12, 2005 (Ontario Ministry of Health and Long Term Care, 2005). Chart 15 compares those benchmarks for which a similar comparator exists in *Waiting Your Turn*. Two observations arise from this comparison. First, Canada's physicians tend to have a lower threshold for reasonable wait times than do Canada's provincial, territorial, and federal governments. Second, median wait times in many provinces are already within the benchmarks set by governments in Canada, which means that according to these benchmarks, more than 50 percent of patients in these provinces are already being treated in a time frame that provincial governments consider "reasonable."[12]

12 Note that although the median wait time is less than the benchmark wait time, this does not mean that provinces have already met their targets. The pan-Canadian benchmark wait times apply to all patient cases, while the median wait time is the time by which 50 percent of patients have been treated and 50 percent of patients are still waiting for treatment.

Conclusion

The 2012 *Waiting Your Turn* survey indicates that waiting times for elective medical treatment across the provinces have fallen from those in 2011, but that they remain at a very high level historically. Even if one debates the reliability of waiting-list data, this survey reveals that wait times in Canada are longer than what physicians consider to be clinically reasonable.

From an economic standpoint, a study by Stokes and Somerville (2008) found that the cumulative total lost economic output that represents the cost of waiting longer than medically recommended for treatment for total joint replacement surgery, cataract surgery, coronary artery bypass graft surgery, and MRI scans in 2007 was an estimated $14.8 billion. More recently, Esmail (2012) estimated the cost of waiting per patient in Canada to be approximately $1,144 in 2011 if only hours during the normal working week were considered "lost," and as much as $3,490 if all hours of the week (excluding 8 hours of sleep per night) were considered "lost."

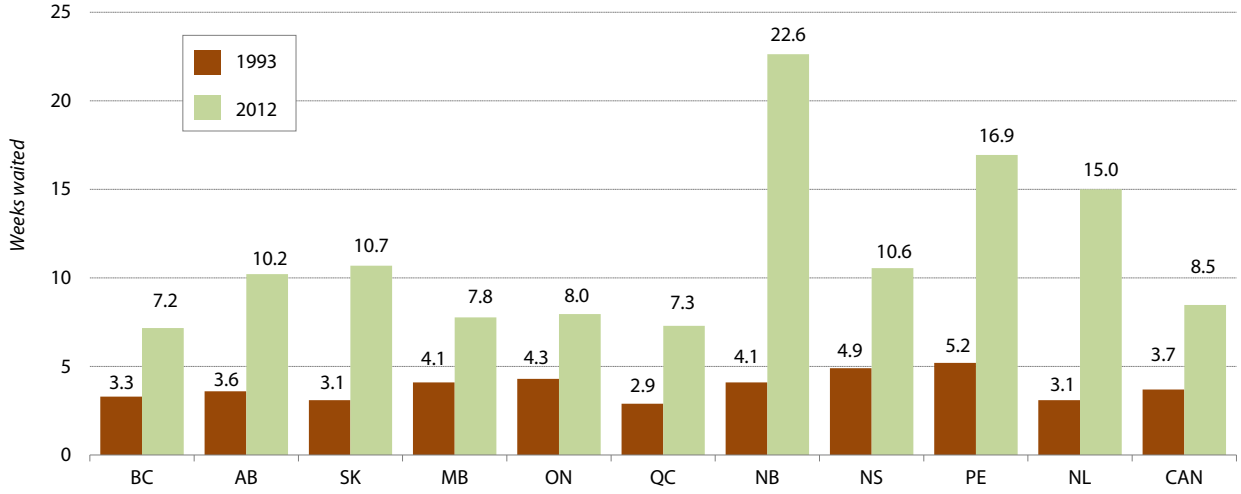
Further, there is a significant body of medical literature identifying adverse consequences from prolonged waiting (see *Waiting Your Turn 2009*).

This year's survey of specialists also found that an estimated 0.9 percent of patients received elective treatment in another country during 2011/12.

Thus, despite provincial wait time strategies and high levels of health expenditure, it is clear that patients in Canada are waiting too long to receive treatment.

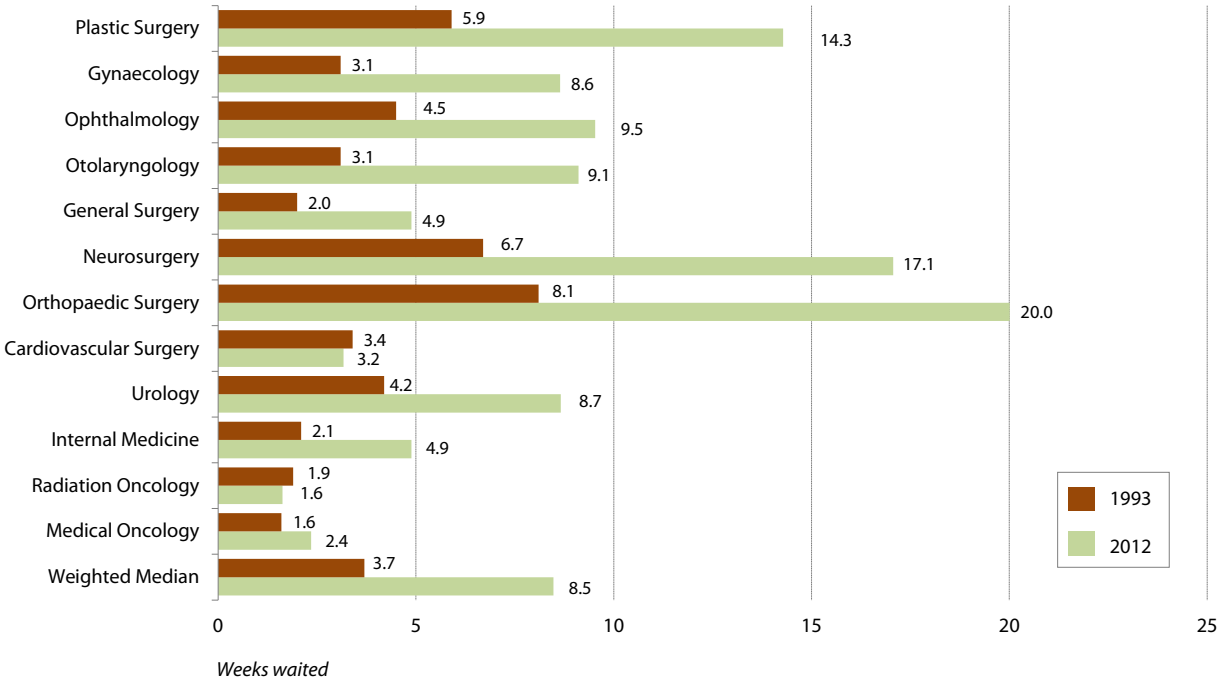
Selected graphs

Graph 1: Median Wait Between Referral by GP and Appointment with Specialist, by Province, 1993 and 2012



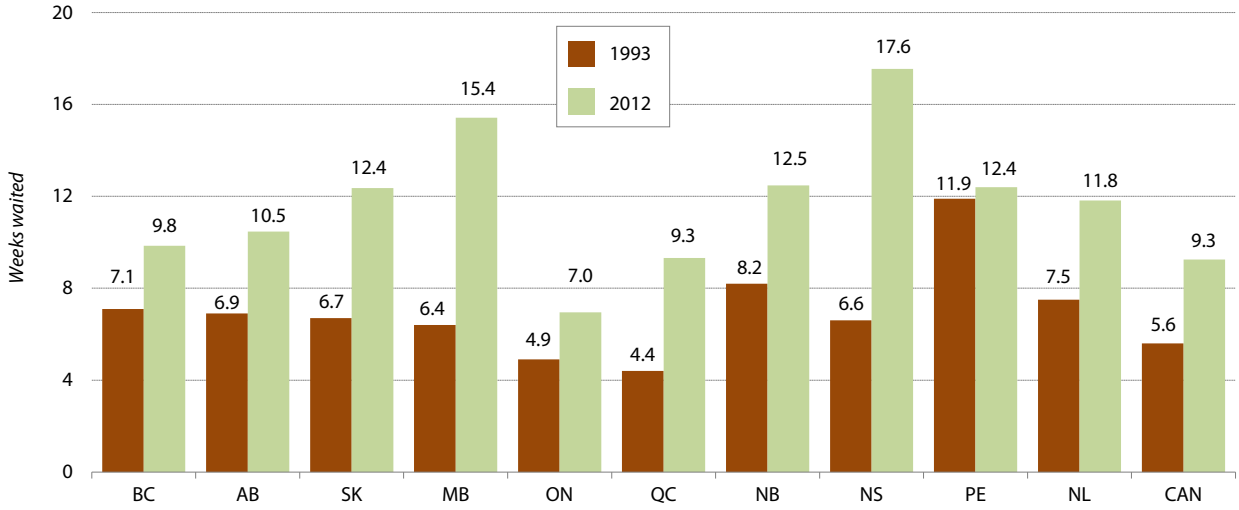
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 2: Median Wait between Referral by GP and Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty, 1993 and 2012



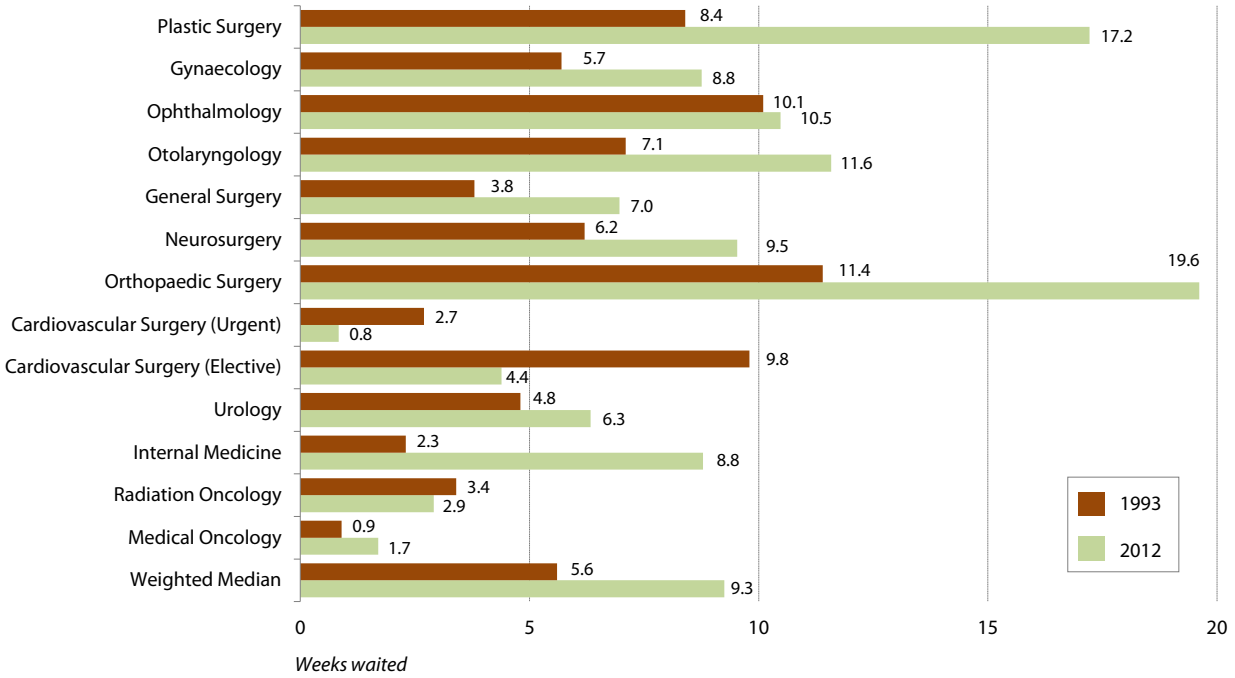
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 3: Median Wait between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, by Province, 1993 and 2012



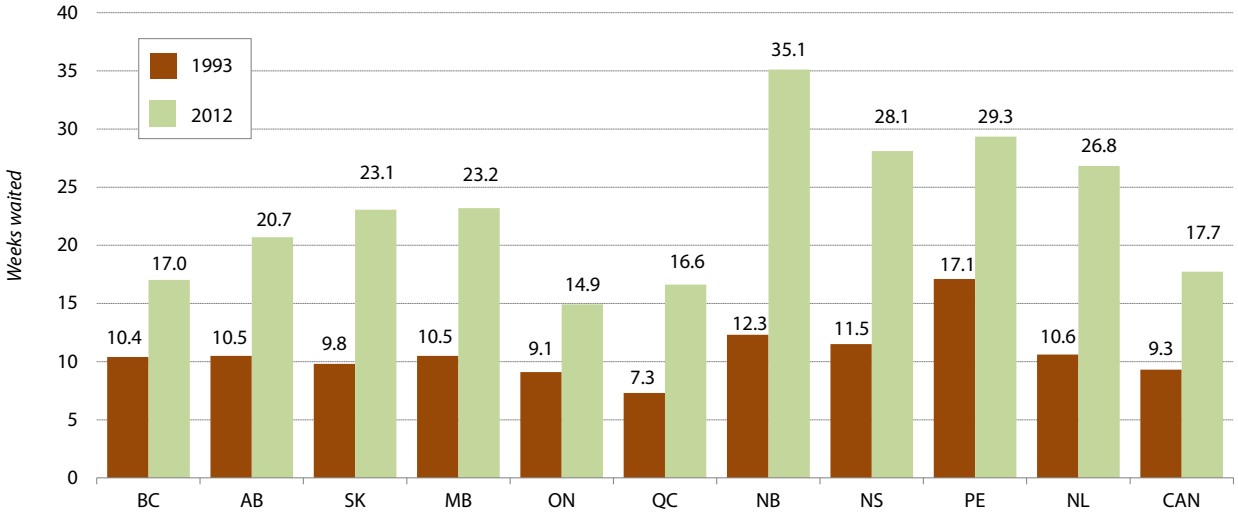
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 4: Median Wait between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, by Specialty, 1993 and 2012



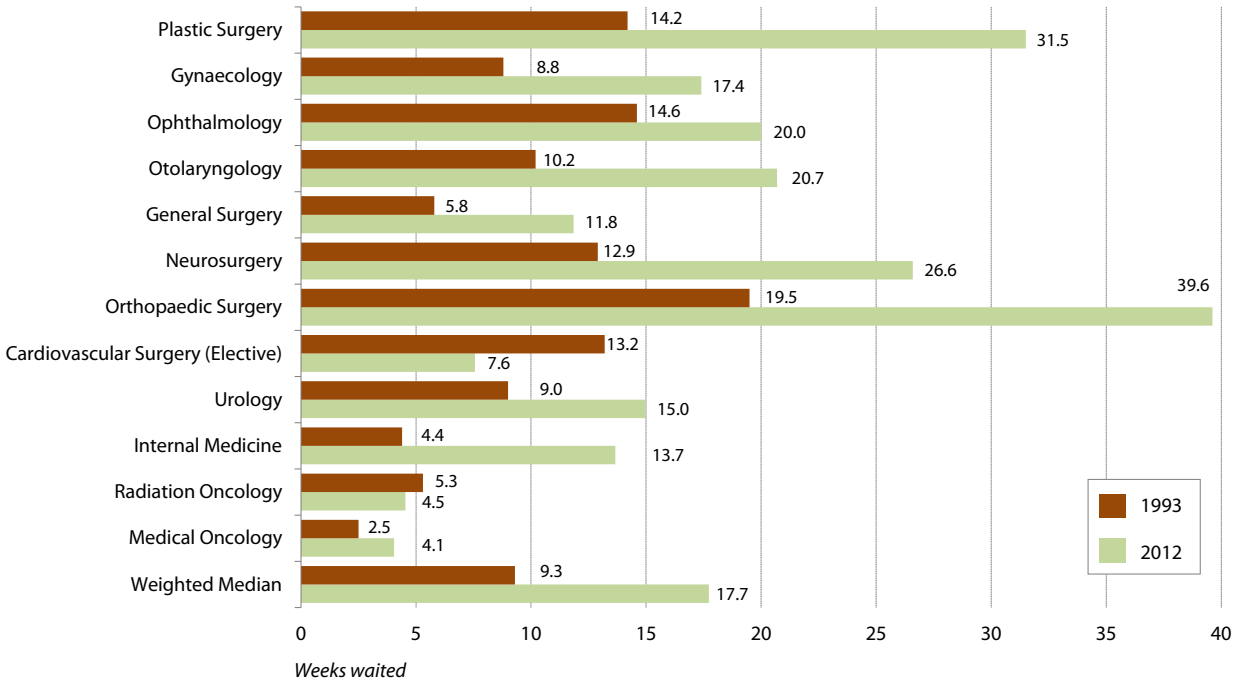
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 5: Median Wait between Referral by GP and Treatment, by Province, 1993 and 2012



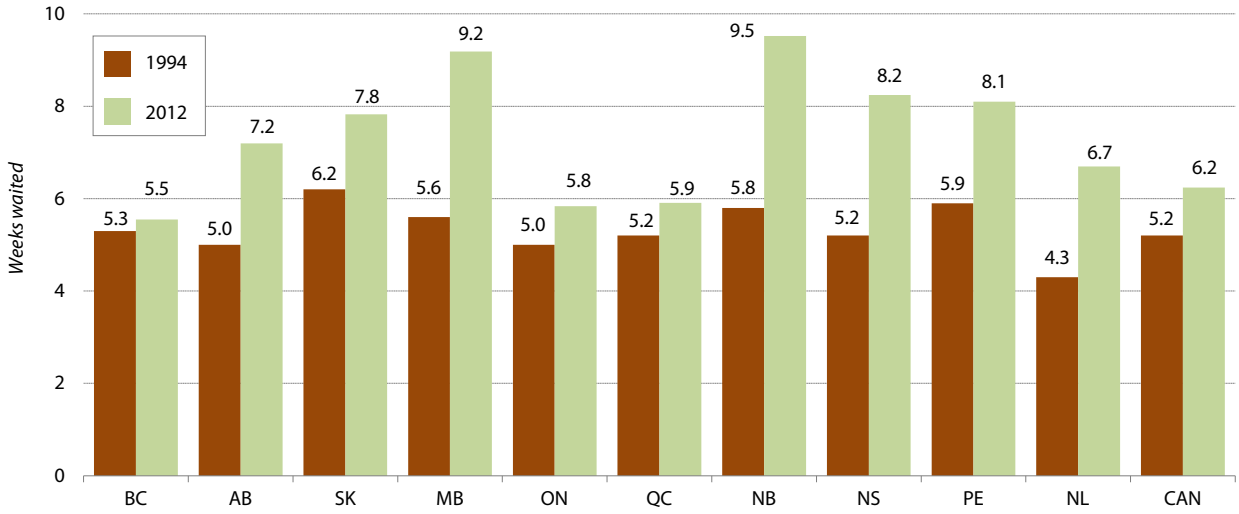
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 6: Median Wait between Referral by GP and Treatment, by Specialty, 1993 and 2012



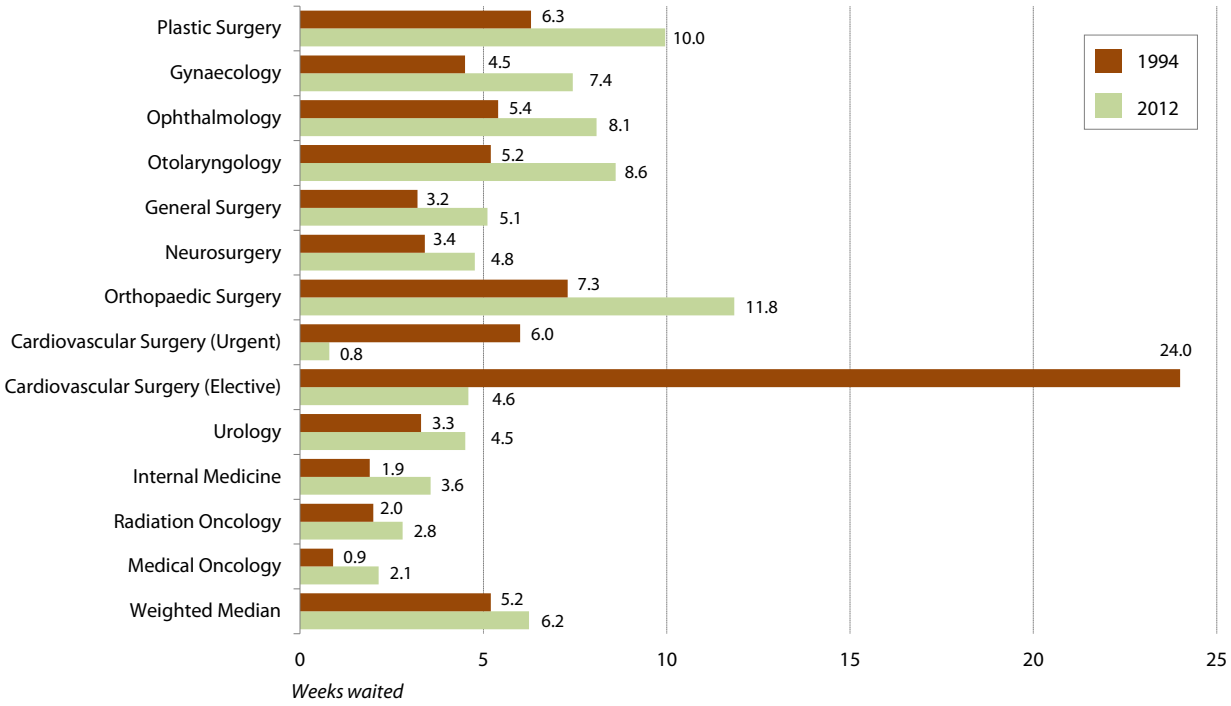
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 7: Median Reasonable Wait between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, by Province, 1994 and 2012



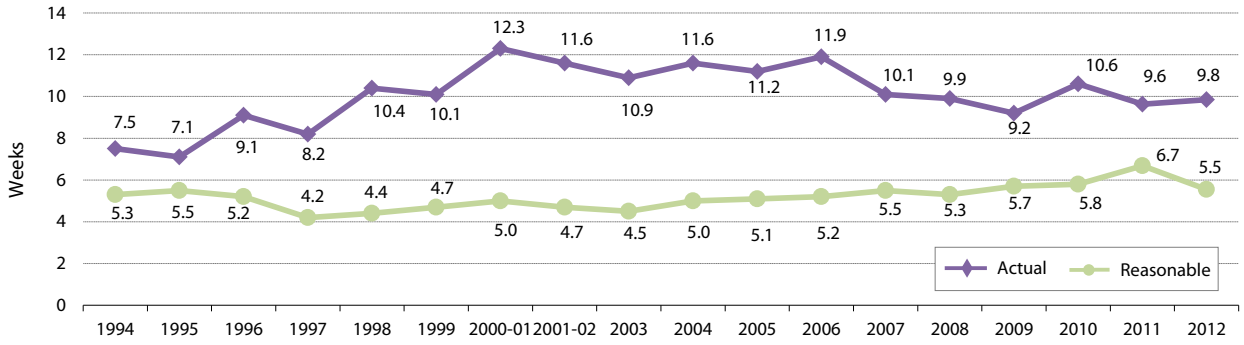
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 8: Median Reasonable Wait between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, by Specialty, 1994 and 2012



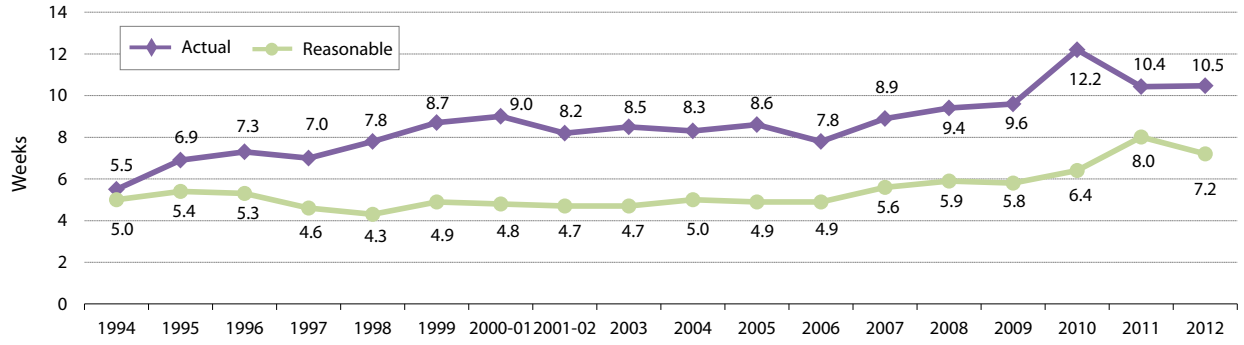
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2012; and *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

Graph 9: British Columbia—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2012



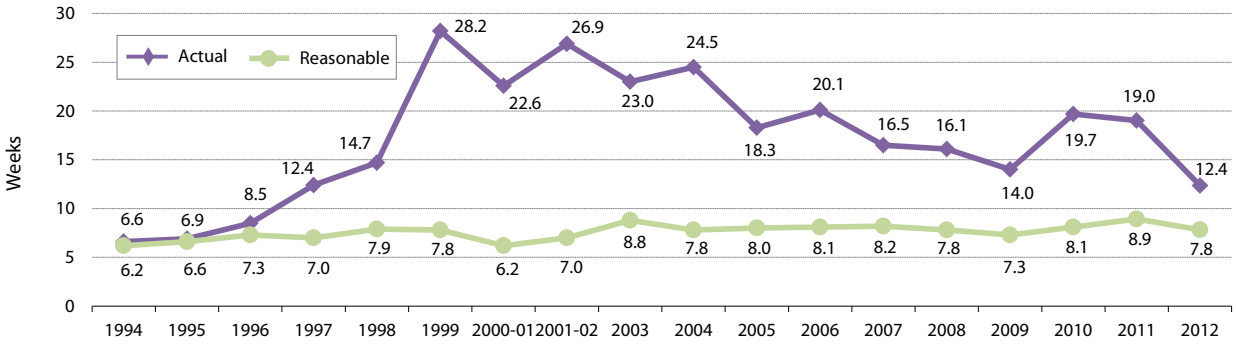
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2012.

Graph 10: Alberta—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2012



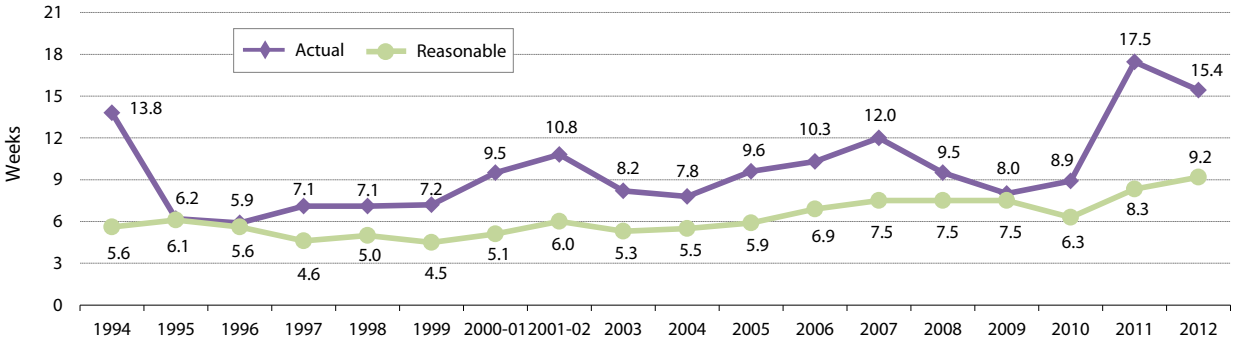
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2012.

Graph 11: Saskatchewan—Actual Versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2012



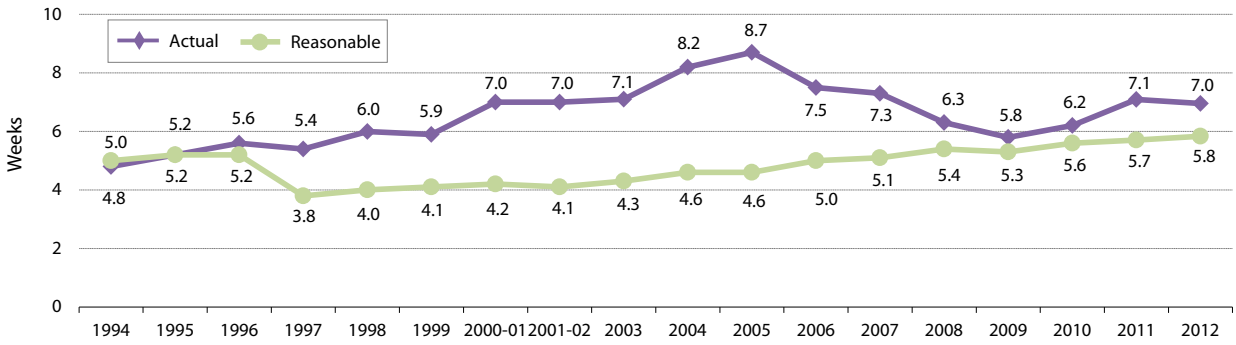
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2012.

Graph 12: Manitoba—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2012



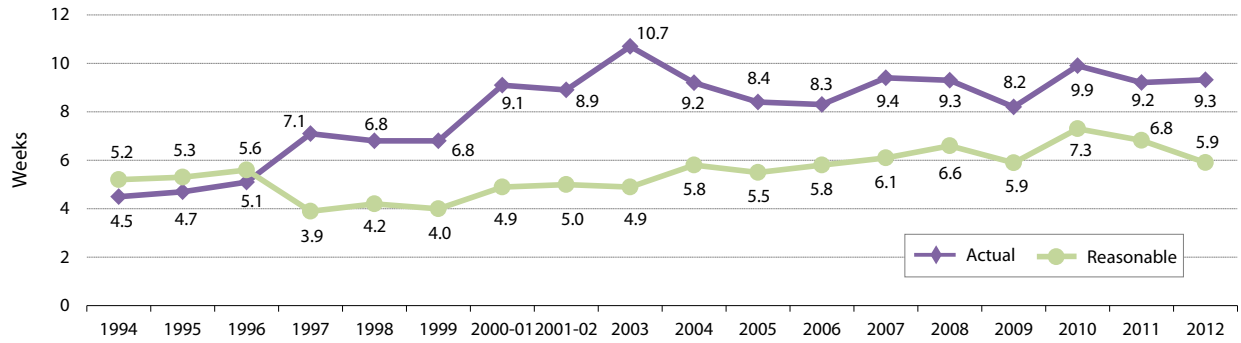
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2012.

Graph 13: Ontario—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2012



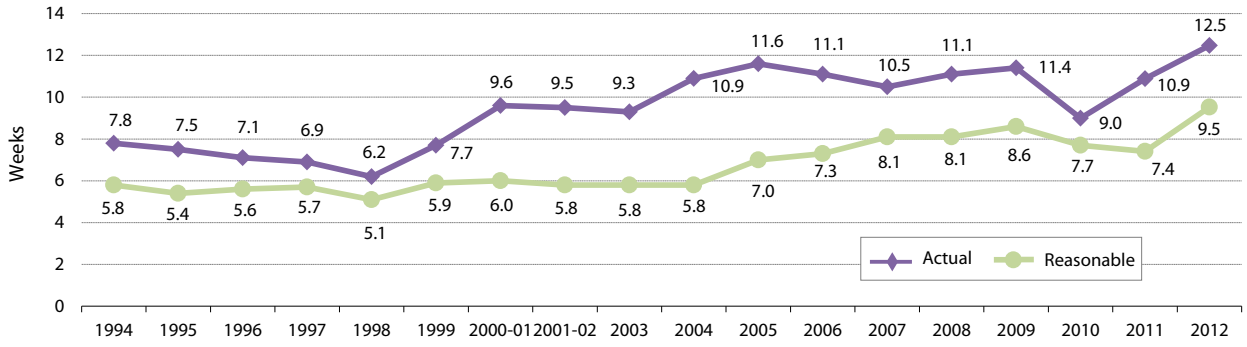
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2012.

Graph 14: Quebec—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2012



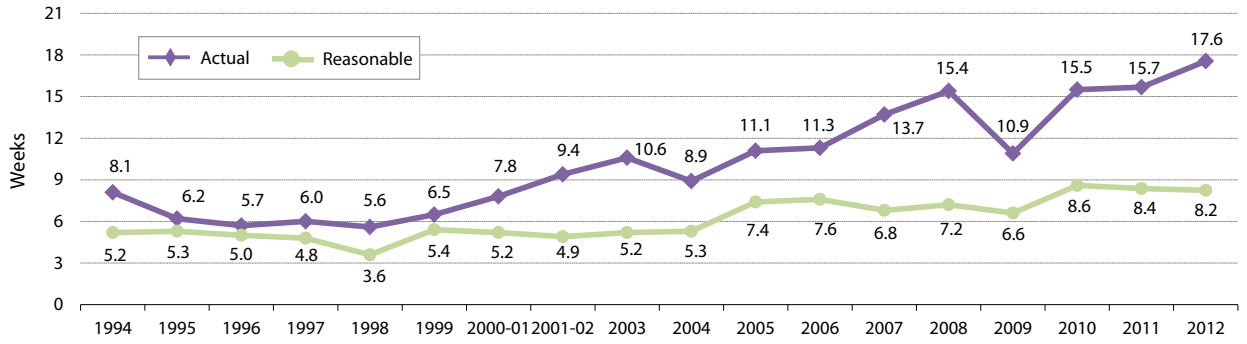
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2012.

Graph 15: New Brunswick—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2012



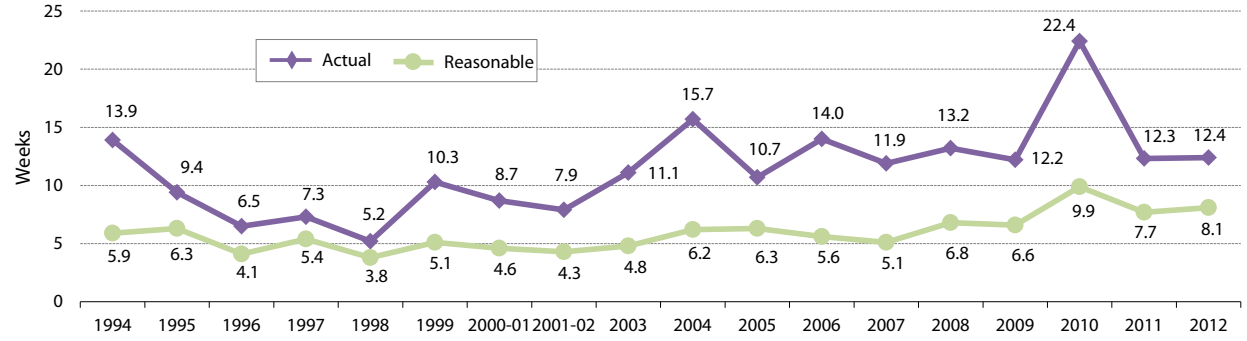
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2012.

Graph 16: Nova Scotia—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2012



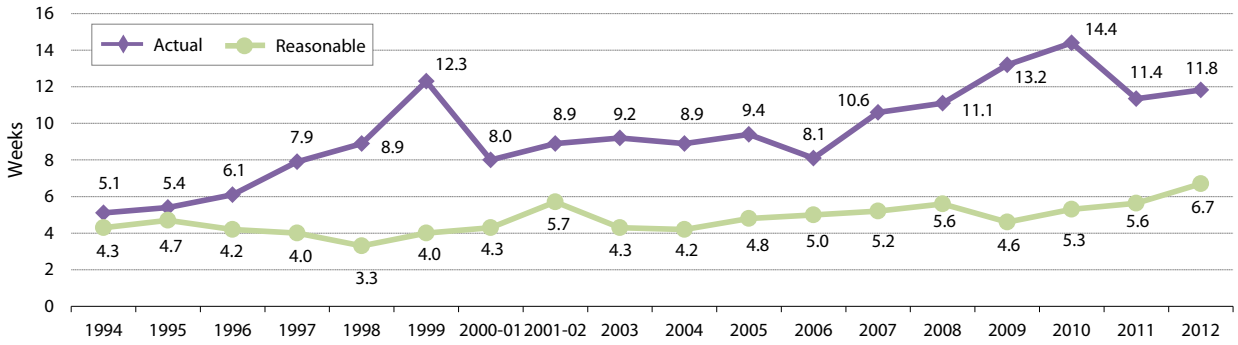
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2012.

Graph 17: Prince Edward Island—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2012



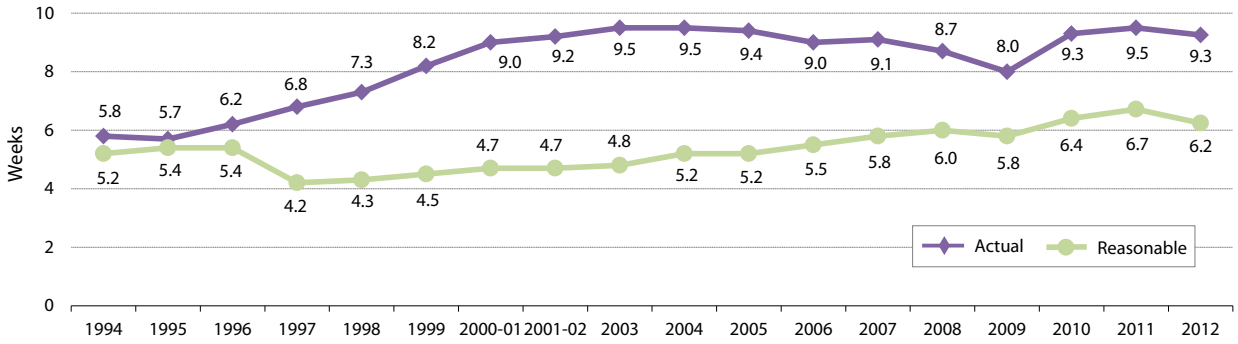
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2012.

Graph 18: Newfoundland & Labrador—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2012



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2012.

Graph 19: Canada—Actual versus Reasonable Waits Between Appointment with Specialist and Treatment, 1994 through 2012



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995-2012.

Selected data tables

Table 1a: Summary of Responses, 2012 Response Rates (Percentages)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	26%	48%	75%	36%	18%	12%	27%	25%	50%	67%	23%
Gynaecology	51%	36%	42%	22%	19%	10%	24%	21%	29%	20%	22%
Ophthalmology	20%	24%	29%	17%	22%	14%	21%	27%	67%	38%	20%
Otolaryngology	26%	31%	38%	22%	20%	12%	44%	26%	50%	20%	20%
General Surgery	18%	20%	30%	14%	16%	8%	29%	35%	17%	18%	15%
Neurosurgery	30%	24%	20%	13%	13%	4%	13%	56%	-	33%	16%
Orthopaedic Surgery	23%	21%	19%	19%	21%	11%	22%	33%	60%	27%	19%
Cardiovascular Surgery	16%	18%	14%	40%	11%	7%	20%	25%	-	25%	13%
Urology	21%	26%	92%	24%	27%	11%	53%	50%	50%	17%	24%
Internal Medicine	27%	29%	47%	15%	12%	10%	32%	50%	50%	38%	17%
Radiation Oncology	4%	16%	0%	0%	10%	7%	50%	0%	50%	29%	10%
Medical Oncology	10%	7%	0%	0%	8%	7%	40%	17%	100%	14%	9%
Total	25%	26%	37%	18%	17%	10%	29%	31%	44%	28%	18%

Table 1b: Summary of Responses, 2012 Number of Responses

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	14	16	6	4	29	11	4	2	1	4	91
Gynaecology	71	46	18	11	123	40	8	10	2	4	333
Ophthalmology	26	21	5	4	79	36	4	9	2	5	191
Otolaryngology	16	12	3	4	42	22	7	6	1	2	115
General Surgery	26	25	11	7	91	37	9	13	1	3	223
Neurosurgery	8	9	2	1	11	3	1	5	-	1	41
Orthopaedic Surgery	37	25	5	7	92	33	7	11	3	4	224
Cardiovascular Surgery	7	6	2	4	15	6	2	4	0	1	47
Urology	14	11	11	4	57	16	8	4	1	1	127
Internal Medicine	51	61	22	10	116	36	8	19	2	8	333
Radiation Oncology	2	4	0	0	18	7	4	0	1	2	38
Medical Oncology	6	3	0	0	13	10	2	2	1	1	38
Total	278	239	85	56	686	257	64	85	15	36	1,801

Table 1c: Summary of Responses, 2012 Number of Questionnaires Mailed Out

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	54	33	8	11	164	92	15	8	2	6	393
Gynaecology	140	129	43	51	637	387	34	48	7	20	1,496
Ophthalmology	128	89	17	23	363	260	19	33	3	13	948
Otolaryngology	62	39	8	18	213	185	16	23	2	10	576
General Surgery	145	128	37	50	567	458	31	37	6	17	1,476
Neurosurgery	27	37	10	8	85	68	8	9	—	3	255
Orthopaedic Surgery	164	120	27	37	446	291	32	33	5	15	1,170
Cardiovascular Surgery	45	34	14	10	135	91	10	16	—	4	359
Urology	66	42	12	17	209	144	15	8	2	6	521
Internal Medicine	187	211	47	68	996	368	25	38	4	21	1,965
Radiation Oncology	55	25	7	11	179	98	8	6	2	7	398
Medical Oncology	61	42	1	8	161	135	5	12	1	7	433
Total	1,134	929	231	312	4,155	2,577	218	271	34	129	9,990

Table 2: Median Total Expected Waiting Time from Referral by GP to Treatment, by Specialty, 2012 (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	55.3	41.2	112.2	42.9	17.4	20.8	52.9	31.0	28.5	17.6	31.5
Gynaecology	15.2	24.3	12.2	15.3	15.0	18.3	22.8	11.0	31.9	30.5	17.4
Ophthalmology	22.6	15.3	29.3	43.0	16.0	19.4	44.1	35.6	37.8	23.4	20.0
Otolaryngology	29.0	21.7	16.3	18.6	22.0	14.6	18.4	17.9	44.5	39.5	20.7
General Surgery	9.5	16.4	10.8	20.9	9.7	12.4	13.9	16.0	4.7	18.1	11.8
Neurosurgery	18.5	32.0	12.6	-	29.7	17.0	51.2	49.5	—	38.2	26.6
Orthopaedic Surgery	36.7	45.8	36.6	30.3	37.4	31.3	77.9	88.7	78.7	44.2	39.6
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	10.9	7.1	14.6	18.3	6.0	5.2	7.1	17.9	—	7.6	7.6
Urology	9.4	11.9	37.5	9.9	12.3	14.2	47.1	31.9	34.4	36.8	15.0
Internal Medicine	11.1	16.1	16.8	19.4	8.4	19.8	9.2	12.3	19.5	29.5	13.7
Radiation Oncology	4.8	5.3	8.0	—	3.2	5.9	6.1	—	3.4	3.8	4.5
Medical Oncology	5.8	3.7	—	—	4.3	3.2	3.3	6.8	0.8	4.0	4.1
Weighted Median	17.0	20.7	23.1	23.2	14.9	16.6	35.1	28.1	29.3	26.8	17.7

Note: Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.

Table 3: Median Patient Wait to See a Specialist after Referral from a GP, by Specialty, 2012 (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	26.0	15.0	56.0	18.0	8.0	10.0	30.0	4.0	22.0	10.0	14.3
Gynaecology	8.0	14.0	4.5	5.0	7.0	8.0	12.0	4.8	27.3	22.0	8.6
Ophthalmology	9.0	4.0	12.0	3.5	8.0	11.5	32.0	12.0	20.0	15.5	9.5
Otolaryngology	7.0	8.0	4.0	7.5	11.0	8.0	10.0	10.5	24.0	7.5	9.1
General Surgery	4.0	6.5	4.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	6.5	2.0	12.0	4.9
Neurosurgery	8.0	18.0	4.0	16.0	20.0	12.0	30.0	40.0	—	36.0	17.1
Orthopaedic Surgery	15.0	33.0	18.0	14.0	19.5	12.0	50.0	36.0	36.0	28.0	20.0
Cardiovascular Surgery	5.0	2.0	2.5	3.8	2.5	2.0	4.5	13.0	—	4.0	3.2
Urology	4.0	7.0	22.0	5.5	8.0	8.0	39.0	6.3	28.0	24.0	8.7
Internal Medicine	5.0	5.5	8.0	10.0	4.0	4.5	4.0	5.0	19.0	6.0	4.9
Radiation Oncology	1.8	3.0	4.0	—	1.3	1.8	1.3	—	1.0	1.8	1.6
Medical Oncology	3.8	1.5	—	—	2.5	2.0	1.5	3.8	0.6	2.0	2.4
Weighted Median	7.2	10.2	10.7	7.8	8.0	7.3	22.6	10.6	16.9	15.0	8.5

Table 4: Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty, 2012 (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	29.3	26.2	56.2	24.9	9.4	10.8	22.9	27.0	6.5	7.6	17.2
Gynaecology	7.2	10.3	7.7	10.3	8.0	10.3	10.8	6.2	4.7	8.5	8.8
Ophthalmology	13.6	11.3	17.3	39.5	8.0	7.9	12.1	23.6	17.8	7.9	10.5
Otolaryngology	22.0	13.7	12.3	11.1	11.0	6.6	8.4	7.4	20.5	32.0	11.6
General Surgery	5.5	9.9	6.8	14.9	4.7	8.4	9.9	9.5	2.7	6.1	7.0
Neurosurgery	10.5	14.0	8.6	—	9.7	5.0	21.2	9.5	—	2.2	9.5
Orthopaedic Surgery	21.7	12.8	18.6	16.3	17.9	19.3	27.9	52.7	42.7	16.2	19.6
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.7	1.0	1.5	0.3	0.9	0.2	0.4	1.5	—	1.0	0.8
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	5.9	5.1	12.1	14.6	3.5	3.2	2.6	4.9	—	3.6	4.4
Urology	5.4	4.9	15.5	4.4	4.3	6.2	8.1	25.7	6.4	12.8	6.3
Internal Medicine	6.1	10.6	8.8	9.4	4.4	15.3	5.2	7.3	0.5	23.5	8.8
Radiation Oncology	3.0	2.3	4.0	—	2.0	4.1	4.8	—	2.4	2.1	2.9
Medical Oncology	2.1	2.2	—	—	1.8	1.2	1.8	3.0	0.1	2.0	1.7
Weighted Median	9.8	10.5	12.4	15.4	7.0	9.3	12.5	17.6	12.4	11.8	9.3

Table 5a: Plastic Surgery, 2012
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	52.0	30.0	78.0	29.0	12.0	10.5	25.0	30.0	5.5	11.0
Neurolysis	8.5	12.0	72.0	56.0	8.5	7.0	18.0	22.0	7.0	5.0
Blepharoplasty	16.0	20.0	20.0	28.0	5.0	4.0	24.0	30.0	7.0	8.0
Rhinoplasty	16.0	38.0	52.0	22.0	4.0	5.5	24.0	30.0	8.5	—
Scar Revision	11.0	20.0	56.0	24.0	12.0	14.0	25.0	26.0	7.0	7.5
Hand Surgery	13.0	13.0	10.0	4.0	8.0	20.0	16.0	26.0	7.0	4.8
Craniofacial Procedures	6.0	3.5	6.0	36.0	4.0	7.5	24.0	—	—	0.5
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	4.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	5.5	3.0	6.0	4.0	2.5	3.0
Weighted Median	29.3	26.2	56.2	24.9	9.4	10.8	22.9	27.0	6.5	7.6

Note: Weighted median does not include craniofacial procedures or skin cancers and other tumors.

Table 5b: Gynaecology, 2012
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	5.0	8.0	4.5	7.5	6.0	4.0	6.0	5.0	4.0	9.0
Tubal Ligation	8.5	11.5	10.0	14.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	6.0	8.0	9.0
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	10.0	12.0	9.0	11.0	10.0	14.0	12.0	7.5	4.0	9.0
Vaginal Repair	11.0	12.0	9.0	16.0	10.0	15.5	12.0	12.0	4.0	16.5
Tuboplasty	5.0	12.0	8.0	20.0	10.0	16.0	8.0	10.5	—	9.0
Laparoscopic Procedures	8.0	11.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	5.5	4.0	5.5
Hysteroscopic Procedures	6.0	10.0	6.5	8.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	5.0	4.0	5.5
Weighted Median	7.2	10.3	7.7	10.3	8.0	10.3	10.8	6.2	4.7	8.5

Table 5c: Ophthalmology, 2012
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	16.0	13.0	20.0	40.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	24.0	18.0	8.0
Cornea Transplant	12.0	145.0	104.0	44.0	30.0	25.0	52.0	—	—	—
Cornea—Pterygium	10.0	9.0	17.0	12.0	8.5	8.0	11.0	12.0	26.0	7.0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	4.0	4.0	—	—	8.0	8.0	9.0	—	26.0	6.0
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	3.0	2.0	2.5	—	4.0	2.0	12.8	25.0	2.0	7.5
Lacrimal Duct	12.0	8.0	10.0	—	12.0	12.0	14.5	22.0	2.5	6.0
Strabismus	11.0	11.0	10.0	—	24.0	12.0	19.0	12.0	6.0	6.0
Operations on Eyelids	11.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	16.0	14.3	8.0
Glaucoma	8.0	5.0	14.0	—	6.0	4.0	8.0	9.5	13.8	2.5
Weighted Median	13.6	11.3	17.3	39.5	8.0	7.9	12.1	23.6	17.8	7.9

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

Table 5d: Otolaryngology, 2012
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	13.0	6.0	6.0	12.0	8.0	4.0	5.0	3.8	20.0	—
Tympanoplasty	20.0	15.0	20.0	10.0	12.0	8.0	16.0	13.0	24.0	—
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	24.0	9.0	12.0	18.0	12.0	8.0	6.0	7.0	—	8.5
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	20.0	18.0	14.0	10.0	12.0	8.0	9.0	11.0	—	36.0
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	25.0	18.0	20.0	10.0	12.0	9.0	22.0	8.8	24.0	36.0
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	28.0	16.0	20.0	10.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	20.0	36.0
Weighted Median	22.0	13.7	12.3	11.1	11.0	6.6	8.4	7.4	20.5	32.0

Table 5e: General Surgery, 2012
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	6.0	17.0	8.0	9.0	6.0	10.0	16.0	4.5	3.0	4.0
Cholecystectomy	5.0	9.0	6.0	10.0	6.0	8.0	12.0	5.0	3.0	4.0
Colonoscopy	8.0	12.0	10.0	30.0	5.0	12.0	12.0	20.0	3.0	12.0
Intestinal Operations	4.0	6.0	4.0	7.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	5.0	2.0	2.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	6.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	6.0	11.5	12.0	5.5	4.0	4.0
Breast Biopsy	2.3	3.5	2.5	1.0	2.5	2.0	2.5	2.3	2.0	1.5
Mastectomy	2.0	3.0	3.0	1.0	2.5	3.0	2.5	2.5	2.0	2.0
Bronchus and Lung	—	6.0	—	—	—	3.5	4.0	2.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	—	—	—	—	4.0	4.0	6.0	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	6.0	16.0	4.5	6.5	7.0	11.0	12.0	20.0	4.0	—
Weighted Median	5.5	9.9	6.8	14.9	4.7	8.4	9.9	9.5	2.7	6.1

Table 5f: Neurosurgery, 2012
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Neurolysis	10.0	12.0	4.0	—	4.3	—	20.0	12.0	—	3.0
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	12.0	22.0	16.0	—	20.0	12.0	26.0	12.0	—	3.0
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	9.0	12.0	6.0	—	6.0	2.5	20.0	8.5	—	1.5
Aneurysm Surgery	7.0	6.5	6.0	—	2.5	—	16.0	14.0	—	1.5
Carotid Endarterectomy	21.0	4.0	2.0	—	7.8	—	2.0	1.5	—	—
Weighted Median	10.5	14.0	8.6		9.7	5.0	21.2	9.5		2.2

Table 5g: Orthopaedic Surgery, 2012
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	16.0	12.0	10.0	16.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	24.0	6.0	10.5
Removal of Pins	16.0	9.0	12.0	13.0	12.0	16.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	18.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	24.0	12.0	24.0	16.0	20.0	24.0	40.0	75.0	45.0	21.0
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	16.0	12.0	6.0	—	17.0	14.0	16.5	58.0	104.0	24.0
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	16.0	12.0	12.0	56.0	16.0	16.0	18.0	38.0	26.0	12.0
Digit Neuroma	16.0	11.0	12.0	—	16.0	12.0	10.0	24.0	104.0	7.5
Rotator Cuff Repair	24.0	10.0	12.0	14.0	12.0	12.0	32.0	45.0	12.0	10.5
Ostectomy (All Types)	16.0	8.0	10.0	—	16.0	24.0	12.0	40.0	104.0	3.0
Routine Spinal Instability	56.0	52.0	—	—	29.0	17.5	25.0	14.0	—	18.0
Weighted Median	21.7	12.8	18.6	16.3	17.9	19.3	27.9	52.7	42.7	16.2

Table 5h: Cardiovascular Surgery, 2012
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

		BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Emergent	Coronary Artery Bypass	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.0	0.3	—	—	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.3	—	0.5	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	1.0	—	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	2.0	—	0.3	—	0.1	1.0	—	1.5	—	—
	Pacemaker Operations	0.5	0.1	0.0	—	0.2	0.0	—	—	—	—
	Weighted Median	0.4	0.1	0.0	0.3	0.1	0.1	—	0.6	—	—
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	0.8	1.0	1.5	0.1	0.8	0.4	—	—	—	1.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	0.8	1.0	1.5	0.1	1.0	0.4	—	1.5	—	1.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	1.3	1.0	1.1	0.1	1.0	0.4	0.9	1.0	—	1.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	7.0	—	1.2	3.0	1.3	1.0	0.9	1.0	—	1.0
	Pacemaker Operations	2.0	1.0	1.5	—	1.0	0.0	0.4	1.5	—	—
	Weighted Median	1.7	1.0	1.5	0.3	0.9	0.2	0.4	1.5	—	1.0
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	7.0	6.0	12.0	10.0	3.0	4.0	—	—	—	3.5
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	5.0	8.0	12.0	25.7	3.0	5.0	—	7.0	—	3.5
	Aneurysm Surgery	4.0	6.0	10.0	24.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	8.5	—	5.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	32.0	—	16.0	6.0	5.5	7.0	4.0	6.0	—	5.0
	Pacemaker Operations	4.0	3.0	12.0	—	4.0	2.0	2.5	4.0	—	—
	Weighted Median	5.9	5.1	12.1	14.6	3.5	3.2	2.6	4.9	—	3.6

Table 5i: Urology, 2012
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	10.0	6.0	36.0	13.5	6.0	10.0	9.0	3.5	—	36.0
Radical Prostatectomy	6.0	6.0	12.0	4.5	5.5	4.5	5.0	3.5	4.0	12.0
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	4.0	4.5	3.5	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	8.0
Radical Cystectomy	3.5	4.0	5.0	6.0	5.5	4.0	4.0	—	—	4.0
Cystoscopy	4.5	4.0	14.0	3.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	33.0	6.0	12.0
Hernia/Hydrocele	10.0	8.0	38.0	3.0	7.0	12.0	18.0	10.5	6.0	12.0
Bladder Fulguration	4.0	5.0	3.5	4.5	4.0	4.0	7.0	4.0	8.0	0.0
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	4.0	6.0	10.0	—	6.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	—	—
Weighted Median	5.4	4.9	15.5	4.4	4.3	6.2	8.1	25.7	6.4	12.8

Table 5j: Internal Medicine, 2012
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	7.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	5.0	20.0	8.0	8.0	—	26.0
Angiography/ Angioplasty	4.0	8.0	6.5	4.0	2.0	3.5	3.0	4.5	—	12.0
Bronchoscopy	3.5	4.0	3.5	3.0	3.0	2.5	3.3	8.0	0.5	18.0
Gastroscopy	8.0	8.5	7.0	6.5	4.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	—	12.0
Weighted Median	6.1	10.6	8.8	9.4	4.4	15.3	5.2	7.3	0.5	23.5

Table 5k: Radiation Oncology, 2012
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	2.0	3.0	3.0	—	2.0	2.5	4.0	—	2.0	1.0
Cancer of the Cervix	2.0	3.0	—	—	1.0	2.5	4.0	—	2.0	1.3
Lung Cancer	2.0	2.0	4.0	—	2.0	3.0	3.5	—	2.0	1.5
Prostate Cancer	3.5	2.0	4.0	—	2.0	5.0	6.0	—	3.0	—
Breast Cancer	3.5	2.8	—	—	2.0	5.0	5.0	—	2.0	3.0
Early Side Effects from Treatment	1.3	1.0	0.5	—	1.0	0.5	1.5	—	1.0	1.0
Late Side Effects from Treatment	1.8	2.0	1.5	—	2.0	1.5	1.5	—	1.0	2.0
Weighted Median	3.0	2.3	4.0		2.0	4.1	4.8		2.4	2.1

Note: Weighted median does not include early or late side effects from treatment.

Table 5l: Medical Oncology , 2012
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	3.0	1.5	—	—	1.5	1.8	1.8	2.5	0.1	1.0
Cancer of the Cervix	3.3	—	—	—	2.0	2.0	2.0	—	0.1	—
Lung Cancer	2.0	1.5	—	—	1.8	1.0	1.8	2.5	0.1	—
Breast Cancer	2.0	3.0	—	—	1.8	1.5	1.8	3.8	0.1	2.0
Side Effects from Treatment	0.5	0.5	—	—	0.5	0.4	0.5	0.8	—	1.0
Weighted Median	2.1	2.2			1.8	1.2	1.8	3.0	0.1	2.0

Note: Weighted median does not include side effects from treatment.

Table 6(i): Comparison of Median Weeks Waited to Receive Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2011 and 2012

	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg
Plastic Surgery	29.3	22.1	32%	26.2	39.8	-34%	56.2	29.5	91%	24.9	19.1	31%	9.4	10.8	-13%
Gynaecology	7.2	11.3	-36%	10.3	10.0	4%	7.7	9.4	-19%	10.3	5.9	73%	8.0	7.3	9%
Ophthal-mology	13.6	9.8	39%	11.3	10.2	11%	17.3	12.5	38%	39.5	26.0	52%	8.0	8.9	-10%
Otolaryng-ology	22.0	13.8	59%	13.7	11.6	18%	12.3	36.3	-66%	11.1	13.9	-20%	11.0	10.5	4%
General Surgery	5.5	7.3	-24%	9.9	6.6	51%	6.8	28.6	-76%	14.9	14.4	4%	4.7	4.5	5%
Neuro-surgery	10.5	13.0	-19%	14.0	7.6	85%	8.6	12.1	-29%	—	2.4	—	9.7	14.7	-34%
Orthopaedic Surgery	21.7	22.0	-1%	12.8	19.0	-33%	18.6	36.9	-50%	16.3	25.3	-36%	17.9	15.5	15%
Cardio-vascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.7	1.4	17%	1.0	1.6	-38%	1.5	0.9	73%	0.3	5.3	-95%	0.9	0.6	51%
Cardio-vascular Surgery (Elective)	5.9	8.4	-30%	5.1	4.5	14%	12.1	4.7	155%	14.6	35.3	-59%	3.5	4.1	-16%
Urology	5.4	5.4	1%	4.9	5.9	-16%	15.5	12.5	24%	4.4	4.9	-11%	4.3	4.4	-2%
Internal Medicine	6.1	6.7	-9%	10.6	8.8	21%	8.8	9.2	-5%	9.4	21.9	-57%	4.4	6.0	-27%
Radiation Oncology	3.0	1.6	85%	2.3	3.8	-41%	4.0	—	—	—	3.1	—	2.0	2.0	-1%
Medical Oncology	2.1	3.0	-31%	2.2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2.0	—	1.8	2.0	-12%
Weighted Median	9.8	9.6	2%	10.5	10.4	0%	12.4	19.0	-35%	15.4	17.5	-12%	7.0	7.1	-2%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 6(ii): Comparison of Median Weeks Waited to Receive Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2011 and 2012

	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland		
	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg
Plastic Surgery	10.8	15.7	-32%	22.9	17.1	34%	27.0	141.1	-81%	6.5	—	—	7.6	—	—
Gynaecology	10.3	9.0	15%	10.8	11.1	-3%	6.2	4.6	36%	4.7	7.0	-34%	8.5	14.3	-40%
Ophthal-mology	7.9	10.3	-24%	12.1	12.1	0%	23.6	22.0	7%	17.8	13.9	28%	7.9	19.1	-59%
Otolaryng-ology	6.6	7.7	-14%	8.4	8.8	-5%	7.4	14.4	-49%	20.5	15.8	30%	32.0	9.2	249%
General Surgery	8.4	7.3	15%	9.9	4.5	118%	9.5	7.6	25%	2.7	3.4	-21%	6.1	3.1	96%
Neuro-surgery	5.0	6.7	-26%	21.2	18.1	17%	9.5	13.9	-31%	—	—	—	2.2	3.3	-34%
Orthopaedic Surgery	19.3	18.2	6%	27.9	20.3	38%	52.7	35.2	50%	42.7	30.1	42%	16.2	18.8	-14%
Cardio-vascular Surgery (Urgent)	0.2	0.7	-72%	0.4	1.7	-77%	1.5	3.9	-62%	—	1.5	—	1.0	1.4	-29%
Cardio-vascular Surgery (Elective)	3.2	3.5	-10%	2.6	4.5	-42%	4.9	16.0	-70%	—	8.0	—	3.6	5.0	-28%
Urology	6.2	5.4	15%	8.1	14.7	-45%	25.7	14.4	78%	6.4	18.6	-66%	12.8	16.7	-23%
Internal Medicine	15.3	12.1	26%	5.2	4.5	15%	7.3	6.9	7%	0.5	2.0	-75%	23.5	16.6	42%
Radiation Oncology	4.1	3.6	15%	4.8	2.9	68%	—	2.6	—	2.4	2.2	12%	2.1	2.8	-27%
Medical Oncology	1.2	1.5	-18%	1.8	2.0	-12%	3.0	3.5	-13%	0.1	0.1	0%	2.0	4.0	-51%
Weighted Median	9.3	9.2	1%	12.5	10.9	15%	17.6	15.7	12%	12.4	12.3	1%	11.8	11.4	4%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 7: Frequency Distribution of Waiting Times (Specialist to Treatment) by Province, 2012 Proportion of Survey Waiting Times that Fall Within Given Ranges

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
0 - 3.99 weeks	20.4%	14.6%	20.2%	20.7%	27.4%	23.2%	18.3%	19.5%	33.8%	37.3%
4 - 7.99 weeks	24.6%	27.0%	27.0%	16.0%	28.8%	22.8%	24.4%	31.1%	25.4%	18.0%
8 - 12.99 weeks	21.9%	26.1%	25.3%	31.4%	22.6%	25.4%	24.7%	19.2%	14.1%	21.3%
13 - 25.99 weeks	15.7%	20.5%	13.5%	18.6%	12.7%	15.5%	16.3%	14.0%	5.6%	12.0%
26 - 51.99 weeks	12.2%	6.1%	7.1%	9.0%	5.4%	8.4%	9.3%	7.0%	12.7%	10.0%
1 year plus	5.1%	5.7%	6.9%	4.3%	3.1%	4.7%	7.0%	9.1%	8.5%	1.3%

Note: Columns do not necessarily sum to 100 due to rounding.

Table 8: Median Reasonable Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, 2012 (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	12.5	15.8	—	—	9.8	4.9	11.4	—	—	—	10.0
Gynaecology	6.1	9.3	8.1	9.3	6.8	6.9	15.7	7.1	4.7	—	7.4
Ophthalmology	7.1	9.3	10.4	10.6	7.5	7.9	10.0	11.8	12.0	—	8.1
Otolaryngology	8.5	9.1	7.6	9.1	9.6	7.2	7.3	7.2	—	8.0	8.6
General Surgery	4.0	5.1	5.2	9.3	4.6	5.2	6.6	6.0	3.3	10.0	5.1
Neurosurgery	4.4	9.0	7.2	—	3.4	3.6	6.3	11.7	—	—	4.8
Orthopaedic Surgery	11.3	10.4	15.9	15.4	11.3	11.3	16.4	15.3	19.4	11.0	11.8
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.3	1.1	1.5	0.5	1.0	0.2	—	—	—	1.0	0.8
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	6.5	7.8	9.9	11.3	3.7	3.0	—	—	—	3.6	4.6
Urology	3.8	5.0	—	9.2	4.3	4.7	5.8	7.0	7.0	4.4	4.5
Internal Medicine	2.9	3.6	4.2	4.1	3.5	3.9	2.8	3.9	—	2.1	3.6
Radiation Oncology	2.4	2.5	2.0	—	2.7	3.1	3.3	—	—	1.1	2.8
Medical Oncology	2.0	2.0	—	—	2.0	2.3	—	2.2	—	3.9	2.1
Weighted Median	5.5	7.2	7.8	9.2	5.8	5.9	9.5	8.2	8.1	6.7	6.2

Table 9a: Plastic Surgery, 2012
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	14.0	20.0	—	—	12.0	4.0	12.0	—	—	—
Neurolysis	6.0	7.5	—	—	8.0	4.0	9.0	—	—	—
Blepharoplasty	14.0	16.0	—	—	8.0	3.5	12.0	—	—	—
Rhinoplasty	16.0	16.0	—	—	8.0	4.0	12.0	—	—	—
Scar Revision	12.0	12.0	—	—	12.0	10.0	12.0	—	—	—
Hand Surgery	6.0	10.0	—	—	7.0	3.0	10.0	—	—	—
Craniofacial Procedures	10.0	6.0	—	—	8.0	3.5	12.0	—	—	—
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	3.0	3.5	—	—	3.8	2.5	4.5	—	—	—
Weighted Median	12.5	15.8			9.8	4.9	11.4			

Note: Weighted median does not include craniofacial procedures or skin cancers and other tumors.

Table 9b: Gynaecology, 2012
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	3.5	6.0	4.0	7.5	4.0	4.0	10.0	4.0	4.0	—
Tubal Ligation	9.5	10.0	10.0	11.0	8.0	8.0	24.0	12.0	8.0	—
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	8.0	12.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	15.0	8.0	4.0	—
Vaginal Repair	12.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	9.0	10.0	24.0	8.0	4.0	—
Tuboplasty	6.0	12.0	12.0	13.5	9.0	12.0	26.0	12.0	—	—
Laparoscopic Procedures	6.0	12.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	8.0	4.0	—
Hysteroscopic Procedures	4.5	9.0	8.0	10.0	7.5	8.0	12.0	6.0	4.0	—
Weighted Median	6.1	9.3	8.1	9.3	6.8	6.9	15.7	7.1	4.7	

Table 9c: Ophthalmology, 2012
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	8.0	11.0	12.0	10.5	8.0	8.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	—
Cornea Transplant	8.0	12.0	14.0	24.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	16.0	—	—
Cornea—Pterygium	8.0	8.0	11.5	8.0	9.0	12.0	7.0	12.0	12.0	—
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	4.0	7.5	—	—	8.0	5.0	7.0	12.0	12.0	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	2.0	3.0	2.0	—	4.0	2.3	5.0	9.0	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	8.0	9.0	7.0	—	8.0	12.0	9.0	16.0	—	—
Strabismus	6.0	9.0	7.0	—	8.0	12.0	10.0	17.0	—	—
Operations on Eyelids	8.0	10.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	14.0	12.0	16.0	12.0	—
Glaucoma	4.0	4.0	6.0	—	4.8	4.0	4.5	10.0	12.0	—
Weighted Median	7.1	9.3	10.4	10.6	7.5	7.9	10.0	11.8	12.0	

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

Table 9d: Otolaryngology, 2012
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	4.0	4.0	—	6.0	5.0	4.0	7.0	8.0	—	—
Tympanoplasty	12.0	10.0	—	10.0	11.5	12.0	10.0	11.0	—	—
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	6.0	10.0	2.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	—	8.0
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	10.0	10.0	8.0	11.0	12.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	—	—
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	10.0	14.0	12.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	6.0	—	—
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	10.0	10.0	8.0	9.0	12.0	8.0	10.0	7.0	—	—
Weighted Median	8.5	9.1	7.6	9.1	9.6	7.2	7.3	7.2		8.0

Table 9e: General Surgery , 2012
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	6.0	9.0	9.0	13.0	6.0	12.0	10.0	8.0	4.0	26.0
Cholecystectomy	5.0	6.0	8.0	11.0	6.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	4.0	26.0
Colonoscopy	4.0	4.0	4.0	10.0	4.3	4.0	8.0	7.0	4.0	8.0
Intestinal Operations	3.0	3.5	4.5	7.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	2.0	4.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	8.0	6.0	5.0	20.0	7.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	4.0	26.0
Breast Biopsy	2.0	2.0	3.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	3.5	4.0	3.0
Mastectomy	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.5	4.0	3.5	2.0	2.0	4.0
Bronchus and Lung	—	5.0	—	—	4.0	3.0	4.0	3.5	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	—	9.0	—	—	6.0	4.0	8.0	5.5	—	—
Varicose Veins	9.0	16.0	—	7.5	12.0	12.0	16.0	11.0	4.0	—
Weighted Median	4.0	5.1	5.2	9.3	4.6	5.2	6.6	6.0	3.3	10.0

Table 9f: Neurosurgery, 2012
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	3.0	12.0	—	—	4.0	—	8.0	12.0	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	5.5	6.0	10.0	—	4.0	4.0	8.0	12.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	4.0	10.0	6.0	—	3.0	3.5	5.0	12.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	5.5	4.5	6.0	—	5.0	—	2.0	19.0	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	2.0	2.0	2.0	—	2.0	—	2.0	2.0	—	—
Weighted Median	4.4	9.0	7.2		3.4	3.6	6.3	11.7		

Table 9g: Orthopaedic Surgery, 2012
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	9.0	6.0	12.0	7.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	11.5	9.0	8.0
Removal of Pins	12.0	7.0	12.0	8.0	11.5	12.0	11.0	18.0	25.0	10.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	12.0	12.0	18.0	12.5	12.0	12.0	20.5	16.0	22.0	12.0
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	12.0	11.0	18.0	40.0	12.0	12.0	18.5	21.0	18.0	12.0
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	12.0	8.0	15.0	40.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	16.0	33.0	16.0
Digit Neuroma	12.0	12.0	12.0	30.0	12.0	12.0	16.0	8.0	18.0	9.5
Rotator Cuff Repair	8.0	7.0	12.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	12.0	15.0	16.0	8.0
Ostectomy (All Types)	10.0	11.0	12.0	40.0	12.0	13.5	12.0	16.0	18.0	9.5
Routine Spinal Instability	12.0	12.0	18.0	20.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	26.0	—	17.0
Weighted Median	11.3	10.4	15.9	15.4	11.3	11.3	16.4	15.3	19.4	11.0

Table 9h: Cardiovascular Surgery, 2012
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

		BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Emergent	Coronary Artery Bypass	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	—	—	—	—
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	0.0	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	—	—	—	—
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—	—
	Carotid Endarterectomy	2.0	—	—	—	0.3	0.0	—	—	—	—
	Pacemaker Operations	0.5	0.1	0.0	—	0.1	0.0	—	—	—	—
	Weighted Median	0.3	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—	—
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	1.5	1.0	1.5	0.5	1.0	0.4	—	—	—	1.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	1.5	1.5	1.5	0.5	1.0	0.4	—	—	—	1.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	1.8	1.0	1.5	0.5	1.0	0.0	—	—	—	1.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	4.0	—	—	—	0.8	0.0	—	—	—	1.0
	Pacemaker Operations	1.0	1.0	1.5	—	1.0	0.0	—	—	—	—
	Weighted Median	1.3	1.1	1.5	0.5	1.0	0.2	—	—	—	1.0
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	7.0	7.0	10.0	12.0	3.0	4.3	—	—	—	3.5
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	6.0	8.0	10.0	10.0	4.0	4.3	—	—	—	3.5
	Aneurysm Surgery	9.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	4.0	4.3	—	—	—	3.5
	Carotid Endarterectomy	12.0	—	4.0	—	4.0	3.0	—	—	—	5.0
	Pacemaker Operations	6.0	8.0	10.0	—	4.0	2.0	—	—	—	—
	Weighted Median	6.5	7.8	9.9	11.3	3.7	3.0	—	—	—	3.6

Table 9i: Urology, 2012
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	6.0	6.0	—	12.0	6.0	10.0	6.0	—	—	12.0
Radical Prostatectomy	4.0	6.0	—	6.0	5.0	6.0	5.0	—	—	4.0
Transurethral Resection - Bladder	2.0	3.5	—	6.0	3.5	3.0	4.0	—	—	4.0
Radical Cystectomy	4.0	4.0	—	6.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	—	—	1.0
Cystoscopy	3.0	3.3	—	10.5	4.0	4.0	5.0	—	—	4.0
Hernia/Hydrocele	8.0	12.0	—	10.5	8.0	10.0	8.0	7.0	7.0	4.0
Bladder Fulguration	4.0	5.0	—	6.0	4.0	4.0	7.0	—	—	0.0
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	12.0	12.0	—	—	6.5	10.0	7.0	7.0	7.0	—
Weighted Median	3.8	5.0		9.2	4.3	4.7	5.8	7.0	7.0	4.4

Table 9j: Internal Medicine, 2012
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	3.0	4.0	4.5	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	—	2.0
Angiography/Angioplasty	2.5	2.3	4.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	1.5	3.5	—	2.5
Bronchoscopy	2.0	2.0	1.0	3.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	4.5	—	2.0
Gastroscopy	4.0	4.0	3.3	5.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	—	2.0
Weighted Median	2.9	3.6	4.2	4.1	3.5	3.9	2.8	3.9		2.1

Table 9k: Radiation Oncology, 2012
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	2.0	3.0	2.0	—	2.0	2.0	2.5	—	—	2.0
Cancer of the Cervix	2.0	3.0	—	—	2.0	3.0	2.5	—	—	2.0
Lung Cancer	2.0	2.5	2.0	—	2.0	2.0	2.5	—	—	1.0
Prostate Cancer	3.0	2.0	2.0	—	3.5	4.0	4.0	—	—	—
Breast Cancer	2.0	3.0	—	—	2.5	4.0	3.5	—	—	—
Early Side Effects from Treatment	1.5	1.0	0.5	—	1.0	0.8	1.0	—	—	1.0
Late Side Effects from Treatment	1.5	2.0	1.5	—	2.0	1.0	2.0	—	—	3.5
Weighted Median	2.4	2.5	2.0		2.7	3.1	3.3			1.1

Note: Weighted median does not include early or late side effects from treatment.

Table 9l: Medical Oncology, 2012
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist (in weeks)

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	2.5	—	—	—	2.3	4.0	—	1.8	—	2.0
Cancer of the Cervix	3.0	—	—	—	2.0	3.0	—	3.0	—	—
Lung Cancer	2.0	—	—	—	1.5	2.0	—	1.8	—	—
Breast Cancer	2.0	2.0	—	—	2.5	2.5	—	2.8	—	4.0
Side Effects from Treatment	0.5	0.5	—	—	0.5	0.3	—	0.8	—	1.0
Weighted Median	2.0	2.0			2.0	2.3		2.2		3.9

Note: Weighted median does not include side effects from treatment.

Table 10(i): Comparison between the Median Actual Weeks Waited and the Median Reasonable Number of Weeks to Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2012

	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D
Plastic Surgery	29.3	12.5	135%	26.2	15.8	66%	56.2	—	—	24.9	—	—	9.4	9.8	-5%
Gynaecology	7.2	6.1	19%	10.3	9.3	11%	7.7	8.1	-6%	10.3	9.3	11%	8.0	6.8	18%
Ophthalmology	13.6	7.1	92%	11.3	9.3	21%	17.3	10.4	67%	39.5	10.6	273%	8.0	7.5	7%
Otolaryngology	22.0	8.5	157%	13.7	9.1	50%	12.3	7.6	62%	11.1	9.1	23%	11.0	9.6	15%
General Surgery	5.5	4.0	39%	9.9	5.1	95%	6.8	5.2	31%	14.9	9.3	60%	4.7	4.6	2%
Neurosurgery	10.5	4.4	142%	14.0	9.0	55%	8.6	7.2	20%	—	—	—	9.7	3.4	184%
Orthopaedic Surgery	21.7	11.3	91%	12.8	10.4	23%	18.6	15.9	17%	16.3	15.4	6%	17.9	11.3	59%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	1.7	1.3	26%	1.0	1.1	-13%	1.5	1.5	0%	0.3	0.5	-44%	0.9	1.0	-7%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	5.9	6.5	-9%	5.1	7.8	-34%	12.1	9.9	22%	14.6	11.3	29%	3.5	3.7	-5%
Urology	5.4	3.8	43%	4.9	5.0	-2%	15.5	—	—	4.4	9.2	-53%	4.3	4.3	-1%
Internal Medicine	6.1	2.9	113%	10.6	3.6	195%	8.8	4.2	108%	9.4	4.1	128%	4.4	3.5	24%
Radiation Oncology	3.0	2.4	27%	2.3	2.5	-9%	4.0	2.0	99%	—	—	—	2.0	2.7	-27%
Medical Oncology	2.1	2.0	1%	2.2	2.0	11%	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.8	2.0	-13%
Weighted Median	9.8	5.5	78%	10.5	7.2	45%	12.4	7.8	58%	15.4	9.2	68%	7.0	5.8	19%

A = Median Actual Wait;
R = Median Clinically Reasonable Wait;
D = Percentage Difference

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 10(ii): Comparison between the Median Actual Weeks Waited and the Median Reasonable Number of Weeks to Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2012

	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D	A	R	D
Plastic Surgery	10.8	4.9	121%	22.9	11.4	101%	27.0	—	—	6.5	—	—	7.6	—	—
Gynaecology	10.3	6.9	49%	10.8	15.7	-31%	6.2	7.1	-13%	4.7	4.7	0%	8.5	—	—
Ophthalmology	7.9	7.9	0%	12.1	10.0	21%	23.6	11.8	100%	17.8	12.0	48%	7.9	—	—
Otolaryngology	6.6	7.2	-8%	8.4	7.3	14%	7.4	7.2	3%	20.5	—	—	32.0	8.0	300%
General Surgery	8.4	5.2	61%	9.9	6.6	49%	9.5	6.0	58%	2.7	3.3	-20%	6.1	10.0	-39%
Neurosurgery	5.0	3.6	37%	21.2	6.3	238%	9.5	11.7	-19%	—	—	—	2.2	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	19.3	11.3	71%	27.9	16.4	71%	52.7	15.3	244%	42.7	19.4	120%	16.2	11.0	47%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	0.2	0.2	16%	0.4	—	—	1.5	—	—	—	—	—	1.0	1.0	0%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	3.2	3.0	6%	2.6	—	—	4.9	—	—	—	—	—	3.6	3.6	0%
Urology	6.2	4.7	32%	8.1	5.8	40%	25.7	7.0	266%	6.4	7.0	-9%	12.8	4.4	194%
Internal Medicine	15.3	3.9	294%	5.2	2.8	86%	7.3	3.9	86%	0.5	—	—	23.5	2.1	1042%
Radiation Oncology	4.1	3.1	31%	4.8	3.3	46%	—	—	—	2.4	—	—	2.1	1.1	92%
Medical Oncology	1.2	2.3	-45%	1.8	—	—	3.0	2.2	38%	0.1	—	—	2.0	3.9	-50%
Weighted Median	9.3	5.9	58%	12.5	9.5	31%	17.6	8.2	113%	12.4	8.1	53%	11.8	6.7	77%

A = Median Actual Wait;
R = Median Clinically Reasonable Wait;
D = Percentage Difference

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Table 11: Average Percentage of Patients Receiving Treatment Outside of Canada, 2012

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	1.3%	1.0%	—	0.0%	0.5%	1.4%	0.5%	—	0.0%	0.3%	0.8%
Gynaecology	1.0%	0.8%	0.6%	2.4%	1.4%	0.8%	1.4%	0.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.1%
Ophthalmology	1.4%	1.1%	0.9%	0.0%	0.7%	0.8%	1.5%	0.3%	0.0%	4.0%	0.9%
Otolaryngology	0.2%	2.0%	—	1.5%	1.7%	0.1%	0.2%	1.1%	1.0%	0.0%	1.1%
General Surgery	1.0%	1.3%	1.2%	0.7%	0.5%	0.1%	0.4%	1.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.6%
Neurosurgery	1.8%	2.0%	0.0%	—	2.0%	0.3%	0.0%	0.5%	—	—	1.3%
Orthopaedic Surgery	1.8%	4.4%	2.8%	1.1%	0.9%	0.0%	1.0%	0.2%	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
Cardiovascular Surgery	0.5%	0.3%	0.5%	0.3%	0.8%	0.8%	3.0%	0.0%	—	0.0%	0.6%
Urology	2.0%	1.6%	—	0.5%	0.5%	0.5%	1.1%	0.0%	—	0.0%	0.9%
Internal Medicine	1.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.5%	0.8%	1.2%	0.4%	0.1%	0.0%	0.9%	0.8%
Radiation Oncology	0.8%	0.1%	—	—	0.6%	0.1%	7.0%	—	0.0%	0.0%	1.2%
Medical Oncology	2.9%	3.0%	—	—	1.3%	1.3%	0.5%	0.5%	3.0%	0.0%	1.5%
All Specialties	1.3%	1.5%	0.9%	1.1%	0.9%	0.6%	1.3%	0.5%	0.3%	0.6%	0.9%

Table 12: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Specialty, 2012

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	4,925	3,470	1,823	1,035	4,180	2,517	795	668	24	148
Gynaecology	3,367	4,453	1,036	1,324	9,836	7,742	1,002	805	95	856
Ophthalmology	17,229	10,434	5,242	7,658	27,309	24,887	1,841	7,269	474	963
Otolaryngology	6,211	3,456	1,212	1,088	11,220	3,933	764	660	162	1,060
General Surgery	9,813	10,407	3,222	7,685	24,134	33,612	1,875	4,837	187	1,903
Neurosurgery	1,243	1,391	269	—	3,407	752	393	249	—	34
Orthopaedic Surgery	16,701	7,412	3,725	3,294	39,845	22,180	4,246	9,017	1,150	1,113
Cardiovascular Surgery	369	115	67	7	470	88	9	61	—	11
Urology	5,415	2,177	3,708	559	15,388	9,920	1,065	7,655	127	1,954
Internal Medicine	6,792	6,742	2,563	3,222	13,050	29,424	278	1,745	0	4,203
Radiation Oncology	52	42	15	—	191	238	72	—	4	3
Medical Oncology	100	122	—	—	537	217	33	42	0	32
Residual	46,041	37,938	16,188	21,430	106,983	78,936	9,454	24,816	1,518	11,006
Total	118,258	88,159	39,070	47,302	256,550	214,444	21,828	57,824	3,741	23,286
Proportion of Population	2.59%	2.33%	3.69%	3.78%	1.92%	2.69%	2.89%	6.12%	2.56%	4.56%
Canada: Total number of procedures for which patients are waiting in 2012								870,462		
Percentage of Population								2.52%		

Note: Totals may not match sums of numbers for individual procedures or specialties due to rounding.
All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 13a: Plastic Surgery, 2012
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	3,655	1,700	960	442	2,076	686	442	194	9	77
Neurolysis	129	116	156	165	796	411	69	63	3	27
Blepharoplasty	104	91	31	13	100	37	25	12	0	4
Rhinoplasty	518	830	331	184	255	145	92	64	3	—
Scar Revision	270	621	298	206	551	567	94	222	5	21
Hand Surgery	249	111	47	24	402	671	73	113	4	18
Total	4,925	3,470	1,823	1,035	4,180	2,517	795	668	24	148

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13b: Gynaecology, 2012
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	715	938	139	238	2,173	862	114	174	25	300
Tubal Ligation	575	960	323	370	1,821	1,130	241	127	27	145
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	1,035	1,134	296	324	3,023	2,472	286	222	16	152
Vaginal Repair	203	243	46	115	482	426	63	99	2	106
Tuboplasty	18	17	5	7	31	43	1	6	—	2
Laparoscopic Procedures	200	184	54	64	619	887	33	23	5	15
Hysteroscopic Procedures	620	977	173	205	1,688	1,923	263	154	20	137
Total	3,367	4,453	1,036	1,324	9,836	7,742	1,002	805	95	856

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13c: Ophthalmology, 2012
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	15,419	8,312	4,802	7,525	20,718	21,097	1,649	5,466	453	759
Cornea Transplant	127	792	68	84	680	958	0	—	—	—
Cornea—Pterygium	110	51	46	5	271	352	9	30	6	8
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	99	97	—	—	832	630	10	—	6	10
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	517	339	96	—	1,770	438	8	1,472	0	106
Lacrimal Duct	203	95	44	—	516	460	38	81	0	12
Strabismus	281	270	57	—	1,755	402	42	90	1	5
Operations on Eyelids	474	478	128	44	768	551	85	131	8	63
Total	17,229	10,434	5,242	7,658	27,309	24,887	1,841	7,269	474	963

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.
The procedure data reported generally include only those procedures performed in public facilities. A large number of ophthalmological surgeries are performed in private facilities. The distribution of surgeries between public and private facilities varies significantly between provinces. There are also differences between provinces regarding payment or reimbursement for ophthalmological surgery at private facilities.

Table 13d: Otolaryngology, 2012
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	626	324	213	236	2,046	890	151	117	107	—
Tympanoplasty	250	168	88	49	485	344	102	90	13	—
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	913	328	100	161	1,916	727	50	78	—	41
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	1,560	1,560	461	311	3,930	926	287	261	—	636
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	930	465	127	137	993	476	90	54	9	94
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	1,933	612	222	194	1,850	569	85	60	33	289
Total	6,211	3,456	1,212	1,088	11,220	3,933	764	660	162	1,060

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13e: General Surgery, 2012
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	1,186	2,972	460	534	3,859	2,869	678	263	16	103
Cholecystectomy	812	1,457	313	603	3,076	3,066	535	276	22	115
Colonoscopy	4,585	3,467	1,544	5,067	6,355	20,319	274	3,217	97	1,387
Intestinal Operations	2,538	1,802	615	1,257	8,722	4,836	207	792	37	222
Haemorrhoidectomy	301	157	200	173	930	1,512	59	59	3	39
Breast Biopsy	9	10	2	1	30	53	2	65	0	5
Mastectomy	261	218	69	24	783	532	60	63	10	32
Bronchus and Lung	—	110	—	—	—	211	24	15	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	—	—	—	—	46	32	4	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	120	214	19	25	333	181	32	87	1	—
Total	9,813	10,407	3,222	7,685	24,134	33,612	1,875	4,837	187	1,903

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13f: Neurosurgery, 2012
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	76	130	11	—	206	—	41	38	—	8
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	466	503	144	—	1,953	473	187	70	—	14
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	590	743	113	—	1,174	279	161	136	—	13
Aneurysm Surgery	6	5	1	—	4	—	3	3	—	0
Carotid Endarterectomy	105	11	1	—	69	—	2	1	—	—
Total	1,243	1,391	269	—	3,407	752	393	249	—	34

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13g: Orthopaedic Surgery, 2012
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/ Arthroscopy	1,448	814	244	577	2,746	2,257	220	353	26	71
Removal of Pins	1,167	525	185	189	1,847	1,534	135	168	20	88
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	9,915	3,636	2,860	2,217	26,690	13,624	3,181	6,617	729	712
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	444	221	34	—	893	272	70	268	82	46
Hallux Valgus/ Hammer Toe	126	72	12	163	393	175	30	97	6	5
Digit Neuroma	929	343	191	—	2,186	1,273	98	432	133	70
Rotator Cuff Repair	887	284	93	148	1,199	556	199	530	12	50
Ostectomy (All Types)	683	344	107	—	2,051	1,794	112	477	142	10
Routine Spinal Instability	1,102	1,172	—	—	1,839	695	201	75	—	60
Total	16,701	7,412	3,725	3,294	39,845	22,180	4,246	9,017	1,150	1,113

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13h: Cardiovascular Surgery, 2012
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Coronary Artery Bypass	36	25	21	1	121	42	—	—	—	8
Valves & Septa of the Heart	32	33	12	1	123	34	—	15	—	3
Aneurysm Surgery	2	1	0	0	3	1	0	0	—	0
Carotid Endarterectomy	58	—	1	6	18	11	1	1	—	1
Pacemaker Operations	241	56	33	—	206	0	8	44	—	—
Total	369	115	67	7	470	88	9	61	—	11

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13i: Urology, 2012
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	927	231	474	146	997	940	118	43	—	253
Radical Prostatectomy	125	88	37	19	338	188	19	16	2	35
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	343	170	53	56	910	527	54	109	15	80
Radical Cystectomy	13	9	5	4	60	26	2	—	—	2
Cystoscopy	2,673	981	2,353	171	9,866	6,434	357	7,220	82	1,473
Hernia/Hydrocele	900	459	709	61	1,660	1,082	369	133	11	109
Bladder Fulguration	426	210	69	103	1,530	679	145	124	17	—
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	7	29	9	—	27	44	2	11	—	—
Total	5,415	2,177	3,708	559	15,388	9,920	1,065	7,655	127	1,954

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13j: Internal Medicine, 2012
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	5,174	5,715	1,961	2,756	11,164	27,210	148	1,322	—	3,711
Angiography/Angioplasty	1,281	578	488	372	858	1,314	76	213	—	252
Bronchoscopy	111	258	26	27	566	256	14	113	0	180
Gastroscopy	226	192	88	67	461	644	40	97	—	60
Total	6,792	6,742	2,563	3,222	13,050	29,424	278	1,745	0	4,203

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures due to rounding.

Table 13k: Radiation Oncology, 2012
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Radiotherapy	52	42	15	—	191	238	72	—	4	3

All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 13l: Medical Oncology, 2012
Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Chemotherapy	100	122	—	—	537	217	33	42	0	32

All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 14: Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist in 2012
Procedures per 100,000 Population

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	108	92	172	83	31	32	105	71	16	29
Gynaecology	74	118	98	106	74	97	133	85	65	168
Ophthalmology	377	276	495	612	204	312	244	769	325	189
Otolaryngology	136	91	115	87	84	49	101	70	111	208
General Surgery	215	275	305	615	180	421	248	512	128	373
Neurosurgery	27	37	25	—	25	9	52	26	—	7
Orthopaedic Surgery	365	196	352	263	298	278	562	954	788	218
Cardiovascular Surgery	8	3	6	1	4	1	1	6	—	2
Urology	118	58	351	45	115	124	141	810	87	383
Internal Medicine	149	178	242	258	98	369	37	185	0	823
Radiation Oncology	1	1	1	—	1	3	10	—	3	1
Medical Oncology	2	3	—	—	4	3	4	4	0	6

All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 15(i): Comparison of Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2012 and 2011

	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg
Plastic Surgery	4,925	3,573	38%	3,470	8,066	-57%	1,823	706	158%	1,035	834	24%	4,180	5,090	-18%
Gynaecology	3,367	5,129	-34%	4,453	5,058	-12%	1,036	1,305	-21%	1,324	809	64%	9,836	9,404	5%
Ophthalmology	17,229	11,897	45%	10,434	36,015	-71%	5,242	3,979	32%	7,658	5,614	36%	27,309	29,979	-9%
Otolaryngology	6,211	3,735	66%	3,456	4,336	-20%	1,212	3,611	-66%	1,088	1,303	-16%	11,220	10,831	4%
General Surgery	9,813	11,950	-18%	10,407	8,795	18%	3,222	12,795	-75%	7,685	6,519	18%	24,134	22,421	8%
Neurosurgery	1,243	1,489	-17%	1,391	751	85%	269	414	-35%	—	52	—	3,407	5,025	-32%
Orthopaedic Surgery	16,701	16,568	1%	7,412	14,090	-47%	3,725	7,222	-48%	3,294	5,512	-40%	39,845	33,582	19%
Cardiovascular Surgery	369	310	19%	115	201	-43%	67	43	57%	7	151	-95%	470	317	48%
Urology	5,415	5,077	7%	2,177	3,904	-44%	3,708	2,860	30%	559	603	-7%	15,388	15,666	-2%
Internal Medicine	6,792	7,342	-7%	6,742	6,686	1%	2,563	2,865	-11%	3,222	7,147	-55%	13,050	17,962	-27%
Radiation Oncology	52	36	45%	42	71	-41%	15	—	—	—	10	—	191	184	4%
Medical Oncology	100	139	-28%	122	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	—	537	556	-3%
Residual	46,041	42,433	9%	37,938	49,761	-24%	16,188	24,147	-33%	21,430	22,415	-4%	106,983	107,386	0%
Total	118,258	109,677	8%	88,159	137,734	-36%	39,070	59,947	-35%	47,302	50,992	-7%	256,550	258,405	-1%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians which have been rounded for inclusion in the table.
All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 15(ii): Comparison of Estimated Number of Procedures for which Patients are Waiting after Appointment with Specialist, by Selected Specialties, 2012 and 2011

	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg	2012	2011	% chg
Plastic Surgery	2,517	4,192	-40%	795	597	33%	668	3,859	-83%	24	—	—	148	—	—
Gynaecology	7,742	6,979	11%	1,002	1,039	-4%	805	610	32%	95	131	-28%	856	1,300	-34%
Ophthalmology	24,887	48,029	-48%	1,841	2,155	-15%	7,269	7,117	2%	474	348	36%	963	1,932	-50%
Otolaryngology	3,933	4,549	-14%	764	791	-3%	660	1,285	-49%	162	174	-7%	1,060	366	190%
General Surgery	33,612	28,113	20%	1,875	803	134%	4,837	3,398	42%	187	192	-3%	1,903	948	101%
Neurosurgery	752	1,091	-31%	393	335	17%	249	341	-27%	—	—	—	34	66	-48%
Orthopaedic Surgery	22,180	20,537	8%	4,246	2,799	52%	9,017	6,044	49%	1,150	836	37%	1,113	1,227	-9%
Cardiovascular Surgery	88	325	-73%	9	70	-87%	61	7	828%	—	5	—	11	16	-30%
Urology	9,920	8,870	12%	1,065	2,556	-58%	7,655	4,411	74%	127	410	-69%	1,954	2,748	-29%
Internal Medicine	29,424	25,572	15%	278	242	15%	1,745	1,725	1%	0	1	-68%	4,203	2,607	61%
Radiation Oncology	238	214	11%	72	45	59%	—	26	—	4	5	-22%	3	4	-35%
Medical Oncology	217	274	-21%	33	34	-1%	42	52	-19%	0	0	21%	32	76	-57%
Residual	78,936	80,523	-2%	9,454	7,880	20%	24,816	22,099	12%	1,518	1,428	6%	11,006	10,158	8%
Total	214,444	229,269	-6%	21,828	19,346	13%	57,824	50,974	13%	3,741	3,531	6%	23,286	21,447	9%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact estimated values which have been rounded for inclusion in the table.
All data regarding oncology refer only to procedures done in hospitals. Most cancer patients are treated in cancer agencies. Therefore, the oncology data must be regarded as incomplete.

Table 16a(i): Acute Inpatient Procedures, 2010-2011

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	14,263	10,882	3,831	4,204	42,023	18,675	2,631	3,460	399	1,417
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/ Metatarsophalangeal)	478	575	114	60	867	367	79	55	5	34
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	107	109	5	20	182	103	10	8	1	2
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	193	298	55	39	412	421	48	27	13	24
Ostectomy	1,262	1,457	300	400	3,574	2,156	239	297	24	89
Removal of Pins	987	1,184	246	241	2,596	1,602	191	232	33	84
Rotator Cuff Repair	649	827	140	210	2,013	938	110	160	9	83
Routine Spinal Instability	1,011	1,171	474	334	3,290	2,060	419	280	0	173
Bladder Fulguration	1,569	1,075	349	220	4,960	2,504	458	460	40	331
Cystoscopy	2,462	1,678	540	257	7,505	4,045	512	1,009	36	885
Non-radical Prostatectomy	3,715	1,762	337	264	7,070	3,912	608	592	122	360
Radical Cystectomy	199	113	48	32	568	338	32	66	2	29
Radical Prostatectomy	1,082	766	159	218	3,199	2,171	193	242	24	153
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	1,241	1,105	258	155	4,720	2,649	302	226	74	394
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	58	60	27	24	201	153	9	23	0	13
Cataract Removal	94	368	39	85	150	424	16	59	3	7
Cornea Transplant	42	121	31	12	39	223	0	15	0	0
Cornea—Pterygium	2	8	5	1	4	18	0	2	0	1
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	72	328	86	97	124	312	18	62	2	4
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	60	43	48	15	52	111	13	8	0	16
Operations on Eyelids	119	161	51	52	439	283	25	46	0	14
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	489	4,305	360	1,009	1,278	1,791	3	296	2	20
Strabismus Surgery	29	14	4	7	45	24	1	4	0	1
Myringotomy	272	284	76	139	760	850	133	142	20	96
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	470	615	30	302	1048	628	91	133	6	150
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	1,720	1,844	408	421	6,995	4,164	427	561	47	246
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	1,016	1,371	808	598	2393	1395	479	402	111	451
Tympanoplasty	82	87	2	19	276	316	40	144	5	14
Radiotherapy	508	936	196	20	4,851	2,680	457	470	88	70
Chemotherapy	2,353	2,564	865	518	10,939	7,033	958	692	81	773
Breast Biopsy	74	47	21	32	215	219	16	29	3	12
Bronchus and Lung	1,062	939	273	410	3,525	3,061	318	373	0	121

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, "All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2010-11"and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables

Table 16a(ii): Acute Inpatient Procedures, 2010-2011

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cholecystectomy	3,400	3,942	1,470	1,618	6,748	7,221	1,118	1,265	263	619
Haemorrhoidectomy	71	64	67	77	171	226	23	10	0	21
Intestinal Operations	8,278	6,211	2,350	2,425	24,542	15,953	1,793	2,523	274	1,453
Mastectomy	2,425	2,396	558	402	3,731	3,036	373	521	106	336
Varicose Veins	47	66	19	76	31	48	7	17	0	20
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1,533	1,108	366	189	4,224	1,715	337	268	0	236
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	3,366	3,202	963	756	10,089	5,746	416	824	0	430
Blepharoplasty	6	8	1	2	48	18	0	3	0	0
Mammoplasty	618	1,020	179	314	1736	842	340	131	45	258
Scar Revision	871	1,286	219	323	1,552	1,455	137	187	11	127
Coronary Artery Bypass	2,526	1,286	728	841	8,379	5,593	571	625	0	402
Pacemaker Operations	2,934	1,873	745	863	7,174	7,583	980	689	94	273
Valves & Septa of the Heart	2,162	1,713	401	405	6,377	4,403	299	527	0	139
Angiography/Angioplasty	7,299	3,322	2,892	1,236	21,246	13,838	1,255	2,061	44	631
Bronchoscopy	801	1,508	257	237	5,933	2,928	134	364	9	199
Gastroscopy	428	527	232	123	2,089	1471	186	189	8	97
Dilation and Curettage	413	302	65	87	697	471	39	44	11	44
Hysterectomy	5,372	4,899	1,580	1,500	15,207	8,985	1,239	1,538	203	874
Hysteroscopic Procedures	202	163	44	39	250	233	26	37	5	29
Laparoscopic Procedures	408	255	151	57	1,049	1,079	51	82	9	51
Tubal Ligation	1,464	1,855	696	640	4,839	2,011	425	351	72	300
Tuboplasty	59	42	23	10	81	63	6	13	0	4
Vaginal Repair	613	841	200	319	1,621	1,024	214	353	16	284
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	436	370	18	353	699	524	70	92	2	75
Hernia/Hydrocele	4,131	3,954	1,739	1,588	19,708	7,462	999	1,386	164	607
Carotid Endarterectomy	694	278	72	175	1,200	1,021	126	119	43	68
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	287	301	80	157	594	542	58	44	9	30
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	314	430	100	110	3,016	1,987	120	80	4	31
Colonoscopy	3,536	2,537	1,320	1,125	9,264	8,729	752	779	86	638
Aneurysm Surgery	375	206	54	116	822	556	53	82	0	19
Residual	105,782	100,108	27,427	30,742	301,312	179,067	21,895	27,363	2,303	15,051
Total	198,591	183,170	55,202	57,320	580,742	351,456	42,878	53,142	4,931	29,413

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, "All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2010-11"and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables

Table 16b(i): Same Day Procedures, 2010-2011

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	7,220	4,876	2,365	3,001	2,7371	1,504	1,128	443	347
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/ Metatarsophalangeal)	965	382	179	142	1,866	143	185	36	66
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	303	204	47	131	1094	78	125	10	21
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	4,512	3,231	1,213	1,836	11,488	1,094	738	216	329
Ostectomy	959	782	257	343	3093	246	323	47	82
Removal of Pins	2,805	1,848	555	515	5,408	392	495	54	169
Rotator Cuff Repair	1273	650	261	341	3,182	213	452	45	167
Routine Spinal Instability	12	1	0	0	8	0		0	0
Bladder Fulguration	3965	1,108	680	965	14,932	620	1,150	68	398
Cystoscopy	28,428	11,080	8,199	2,708	120,749	2,581	10,368	678	5,499
Non-radical Prostatectomy	1,105	244	348	299	1574	71	40	4	6
Radical Prostatectomy	1	0	0	0	1	0		0	0
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	3,224	861	522	489	7,106	394	717	24	127
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	33	188	21	26	35	1	32	0	22
Cataract Removal	50,018	32,881	12,447	9,698	134,517	7,131	11,783	1,307	4,924
Cornea Transplant	507	163	3	87	1139	0	159	0	5
Cornea—Pterygium	568	285	136	22	1652	43	128	11	56
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	1,210	931	369	326	5,286	40	1,354	9	83
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	818	576	179	166	2,182	124	183	4	89
Operations on Eyelids	2,124	2,099	505	137	4,552	344	380	30	393
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	8,480	4,503	1,637	1,718	21,727	28	2,765	9	718
Strabismus Surgery	1,298	1,264	294	346	3,758	113	387	9	46
Myringotomy	2,230	2,520	1,766	884	12,542	1,433	1,483	259	1,125
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	3,120	1,375	548	708	6,970	459	388	81	267
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	258	50	27	45	1307	5	20	1	4
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	3,041	3,136	905	1,019	14,635	1,181	831	85	468
Tympanoplasty	567	495	227	236	1825	291	216	23	181
Radiotherapy	390	22	3	41	163	319	13	0	1
Chemotherapy	186	281	439	6	4996	34	29	4	92
Breast Biopsy	137	95	16	26	402	23	1,473	9	174
Bronchus and Lung	45	17	4	6	85	0	5	0	2
Cholecystectomy	5,041	4,479	1,242	1,516	19,913	1,200	1,602	122	871
Haemorrhoidectomy	2,540	957	1,234	825	7,886	231	546	33	490
Intestinal Operations	24,712	9,410	5,647	6,912	88,840	362	5,717	699	4,314

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, "All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2010-11" and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables.
Note: Information is not available in this format for Quebec.

Table 16b(ii): Same Day Procedures, 2010-2011

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mastectomy	4,369	1,376	639	861	12,563	868	786	165	500
Varicose Veins	997	629	204	126	2,445	131	210	13	19
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	487	80	102	24	854	36	37	0	1
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	41	17	12	7	87	3	7	0	6
Blepharoplasty	333	229	80	23	992	55	18	2	29
Mammoplasty	3,037	1,927	461	479	7,259	579	206	39	108
Scar Revision	403	328	58	124	835	59	257	25	20
Pacemaker Operations	3,323	1,054	400	552	3,554	139	821	54	252
Valves & Septa of the Heart	40	0	5	0	2	0	9	0	0
Angiography/Angioplasty	9,354	436	995	3,600	1,063	65	403	51	460
Bronchoscopy	845	1,849	127	224	3,885	93	373	10	321
Gastroscopy	1,038	645	420	415	3,907	75	442	46	165
Dilation and Curettage	7,025	5,796	1,542	1,566	18,134	951	1,762	313	1,690
Hysterectomy	10	15	129	30	514	2	3	2	2
Hysteroscopic Procedures	5,171	4,917	1,338	1,295	10,721	1,112	1,563	256	1,266
Laparoscopic Procedures	894	614	200	360	2,973	94	135	56	87
Tubal Ligation	2,055	2,484	981	736	6,997	620	748	101	540
Tuboplasty	126	32	12	8	80	2	16	5	6
Vaginal Repair	347	212	68	54	884	59	77	16	49
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	3,182	2,109	644	792	6,917	340	337	35	143
Hernia/Hydrocele	10,832	8,119	2,221	2,550	26,067	2,273	2,314	206	1,207
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	3,728	1,765	993	1,194	9,122	687	1,118	84	647
Neurolysis/Peripheral Nerve	869	634	153	155	4,382	185	235	20	388
Colonoscopy	64,706	37,248	16,903	19,602	172,935	1,396	16,176	2,712	12,793
Aneurysm Surgery	5	3	0	1	2	0		0	0
Residual	134,418	85,960	40,625	41,438	489,280	16,793	44,986	4,062	32,989
Total	419,730	249,472	111,587	111,736	1,318,738	47,315	118,254	12,593	75,224

Source: Canadian Institute for Health Information, "All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2010-11"and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables.
Note: Information is not available in this format for Quebec.

Appendix A: Links to wait times data published by provincial government agencies

Alberta

Alberta Health Services: http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/833.asp

Alberta Wait Times Reporting web site: http://waittimes.alberta.ca/

British Columbia

British Columbia Ministry of Health: http://www.health.gov.bc.ca/swt

Saskatchewan

Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network: www.sasksurgery.ca

Saskatchewan Specialist Directory: http://specialists.health.gov.sk.ca/

Saskatchewan Ministry of Health (diagnostic imaging): http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/diagnostic-imaging-wait-times

Saskatchewan Cancer Agency: www.saskcancer.ca

Manitoba

Manitoba Ministry of Health: http://www.gov.mb.ca/health/waittime/

Ontario

Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care: http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/public/programs/waittimes/

Cardiac Care Network of Ontario: http://www.ccn.on.ca/

Cancer Care Ontario: http://www.cancercare.on.ca/ocs/wait-times/

Quebec

Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services:
http://wpp01.msss.gouv.qc.ca/appl/g74web/default.asp

New Brunswick

New Brunswick Department of Health:
http://www1.gnb.ca/0217/surgicalwaittimes/index-e.aspx

Nova Scotia

Nova Scotia Department of Health: http://gov.ns.ca/health/waittimes/

Prince Edward Island

Prince Edward Island Department of Health:
http://www.healthpei.ca/waittimes

Newfoundland & Labrador

Newfoundland & Labrador Department of Health and Community Services:
http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/wait_times/data.html

Appendix B: Psychiatry waiting list survey, 2012 report

The psychiatry waiting list survey was conducted between January 11 and May 7, 2012. Surveys were sent to all specialists in the psychiatry category of the Canadian Medical Association's membership rolls who have allowed their names to be provided by Cornerstone List Fulfillment. This year, the overall response rate to the psychiatry survey was 8 percent (see table B1).

The treatments identified in the following tables represent a cross-section of common treatments carried out by psychiatrists. The list of treatments was developed in consultation with the Canadian Psychiatric Association, who also assisted in making adjustments to the standard survey form to reflect differences between psychiatric practices and practices in the other specialties presented in this document.

Unlike other specialties in *Waiting Your Turn* in which the waiting times are weighted by the total number of such procedures that have been done by all physicians, the overall median for psychiatry is presented as an unweighted measure (see the section on *Methodology* in the main document text for a clear description of the Fraser Institute's weighting procedures). All of the median measures that make up the final specialty median are given equal weight. This alteration to the standard methodology results from a lack of data counting the number of patients treated by psychiatrists, separated by treatment. We hope, in the coming years, to develop a weighting system for psychiatric treatments to allow a weighted average for this specialty to be calculated. In the current estimates, national medians are developed through a weighting system that bases the weight of each provincial median on the number of specialists contacted in that province.

Table B1: Summary of Responses, 2012

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Mailed	510	322	57	134	1705	972	42	113	10	45	3,910
Number of Responses	34	44	8	12	121	56	6	13	2	4	300
Response Rates	7%	14%	14%	9%	7%	6%	14%	12%	20%	9%	8%

Findings

Total wait times

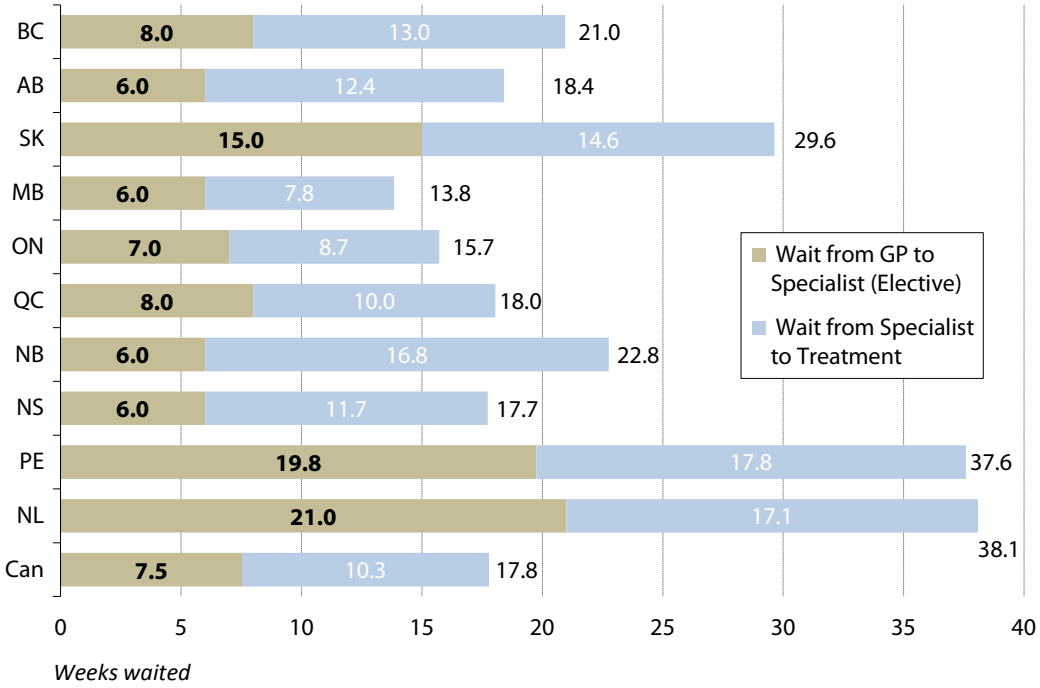
Across the provinces, the total wait time (between referral by a general practitioner and the time that the required elective treatment begins) for psychiatry has fallen from 18.8 weeks in 2011 to 17.8 weeks in 2012 (see graph B1). The shortest waiting times are in Manitoba (13.8 weeks), Ontario (15.7 weeks), and Nova Scotia (17.7 weeks). The longest total waits are in Newfoundland & Labrador (38.1 weeks), Prince Edward Island (37.6), and Saskatchewan (29.6 weeks).

Wait time by segment and specialty

The total wait time for psychiatric treatment can be examined in two consecutive segments:

1. The first segment occurs from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a psychiatrist.
2. The second segment occurs from the consultation with a psychiatrist to the point at which treatment begins.

Graph B1: Weeks Waited from Referral by GP to Treatment, by Province, 2012



Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals due to rounding.

Table B2: Psychiatry, 2012
Median Patient Wait to See a Specialist after Referral from a GP

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Urgent	2.0	3.0	3.8	1.3	2.0	2.0	1.0	1.0	4.0	2.5	2.1
Elective	8.0	6.0	15.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	6.0	6.0	19.8	21.0	7.5

Table B2 indicates the number of weeks that patients wait for initial appointments with psychiatrists after referral from their general practitioners or from other specialists. The waiting time to see a psychiatrist on an urgent basis across the provinces is 2.1 weeks, ranging from 1.0 week in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick, to 4.0 weeks in Prince Edward Island. The waiting time for referrals on an elective basis across the provinces is 7.5 weeks. The provinces with the longest wait times for elective referrals are Newfoundland & Labrador (21.0 weeks), Prince Edward Island (19.8 weeks) and Saskatchewan (15.0 weeks). On the other hand, Alberta, Manitoba, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia are the provinces with the shortest wait times for elective referrals (6.0 weeks).

Table B3: Psychiatry, 2012
Median Patient Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	7.0	8.0	12.0	5.3	8.0	8.0	7.0	6.0	20.0	21.5	8.0
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	12.0	10.0	20.0	8.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	11.0	20.0	30.0	12.0
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	4.0	4.0	7.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	2.5	3.5	8.0	12.0	3.8
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	8.0	11.0	16.0	6.0	8.0	10.0	4.0	5.0	27.0	41.0	9.1
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	7.5	8.0	12.0	4.0	10.0	10.0	4.0	6.0	21.0	24.5	9.3
Access a day program	9.0	11.0	9.0	6.0	6.0	4.0	19.5	12.0	—	12.0	6.7
Access an eating disorders program	8.0	16.0	5.0	10.0	14.0	16.0	—	6.5	—	8.0	13.3
Access a housing program	51.0	22.0	14.0	8.0	12.0	9.0	52.0	24.0	11.0	16.0	17.9
Access an evening program	16.0	10.5	8.0	10.0	6.0	12.0	6.5	16.0	—	4.0	9.6
Access a sleep disorders program	14.0	26.0	46.0	19.0	6.0	18.5	58.0	26.0	—	15.0	14.1
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	6.0	10.0	12.0	8.0	10.0	8.0	4.0	13.0	—	4.0	8.9
Unweighted Median	13.0	12.4	14.6	7.8	8.7	10.0	16.8	11.7	17.8	17.1	10.3

Graph B2: Frequency Distribution of Survey Waiting Times (Specialist to Treatment) by Province, 2012

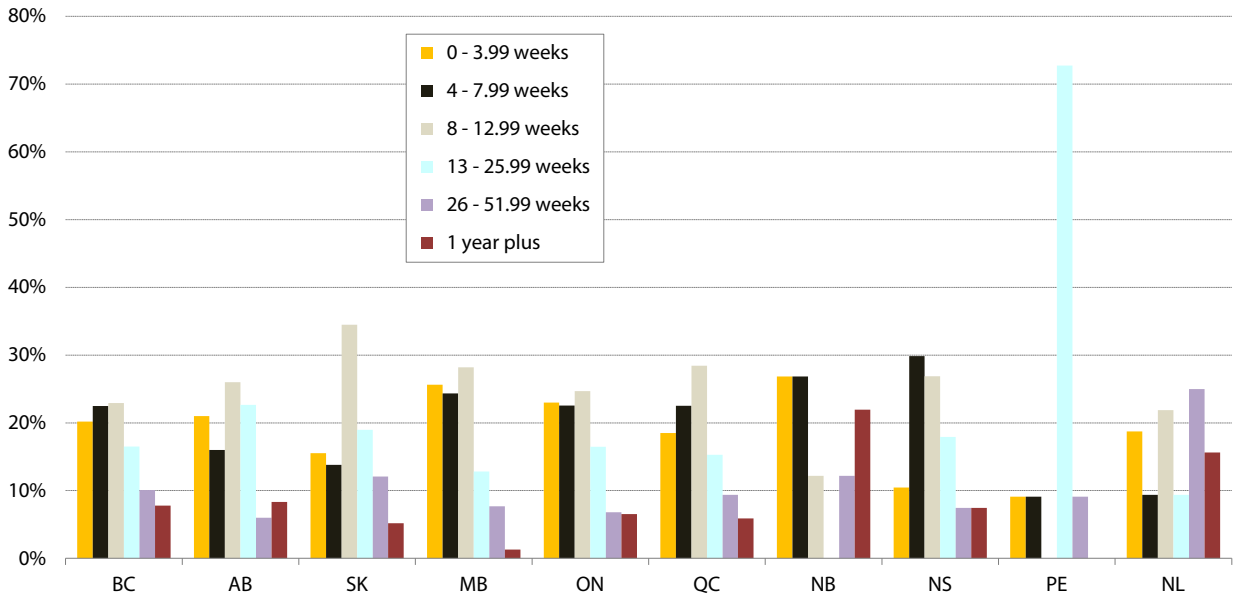


Table B3 summarizes the waiting time for certain elective psychiatric treatments after an appointment with a specialist. The longest waiting times for this second segment of the total waiting time are in Prince Edward Island (17.8 weeks), Newfoundland & Labrador (17.1 weeks) and New Brunswick (16.8 weeks). The shortest waits are in Manitoba (7.8 weeks), Ontario (8.7 weeks), and Quebec (10.0 weeks). Among the treatments, patients wait longest to access a housing program (17.9 weeks) or a sleep disorders program (14.1 weeks), while wait times are shortest for pharmacother- apy (3.8 weeks), and admission to a day program (6.7 weeks).

Graph B2 presents a frequency distribution of the survey responses by province. In all provinces except Prince Edward Island, the wait for the majority of treatments is less than 13 weeks. Manitoba performs the highest proportion of treatments within 13 weeks (78.2 percent), while New Brunswick performs the highest proportion of treatments within 8 weeks (53.7%). Waits of 26 weeks or more are least frequent in Manitoba (9.0%), and most frequent in Newfoundland & Labrador (40.6%).

Table B4 compares the 2011 and 2012 waiting times for treatment. This year's study indicates an overall decrease in the waiting time between consultation with a specialist and elective treatment in 6 provinces. Only three provinces experienced an increase: British Columbia (+42%), Saskatchewan (+218%)[13], and New Brunswick (+26%).

13 This large increase may be in part due to the fact that in 2011 survey respondents reported wait times that were markedly lower than typically observed in Saskatchewan.

Table B4: Comparison of Median Weeks Waited to Receive Psychiatric Treatment after Appointment with Specialist, by Province, 2012 and 2011

Province	2012	2011	% chg
British Columbia	13.0	9.1	42%
Alberta	12.4	13.3	-7%
Saskatchewan	14.6	4.6	218%
Manitoba	7.8	18.1	-57%
Ontario	8.7	9.6	-9%
Quebec	10.0	12.8	-21%
New Brunswick	16.8	13.3	26%
Nova Scotia	11.7	15.7	-25%
Prince Edward Island	17.8	—	—
Newfoundland	17.1	17.3	-1%

Note: Percentage changes are calculated from exact weighted medians. The exact weighted medians have been rounded to one decimal place for inclusion in the table.

Comparison between clinically reasonable and actual wait times

Physicians responding to the survey are also asked to provide a clinically reasonable waiting time for the various treatments. Specialists generally indicate a period of time substantially shorter than the median number of weeks patients actually wait for treatment (see tables B5 and B6). Table B5 summarizes the reasonable waiting times for psychiatric treatments and is based on the same methodology used to create table B3. Table B6 summarizes the differences between the median reasonable and actual waiting times across the provinces for treatment after an appointment with a specialist, and shows that in 93 percent of cases, the actual waiting time for treatment (in table B3) is greater than the clinically reasonable median waiting time (in table B5). Manitoba and Ontario come closest to meeting the standard of "reasonable," in that the actual overall median specialist-to-treatment waits only exceed the corresponding "reasonable" values by 82 and 113 percent respectively, a smaller gap than in the other provinces.

Finally, patients also prefer earlier treatment. On average, only 4.8 percent of patients are on waiting lists because they have requested a delay or postponement of their treatment. Conversely, the proportion of patients who would have begun their

Table B5: Psychiatry, 2012
Median Reasonable Wait for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.5	4.0	4.0
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	6.0	6.0	8.0	8.0	7.0	8.0	4.0	7.0	2.5	7.0	7.0
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	1.8	4.0	2.0
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	4.0	4.0	4.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	2.5	6.0	4.1
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.5	4.0	2.5	4.0	4.0
Access a day program	4.0	3.0	3.0	3.5	4.0	2.0	2.0	7.0	—	6.0	3.5
Access an eating disorders program	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.5	4.0	—	4.0	4.0
Access a housing program	7.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	7.0	3.0	2.0	4.4
Access an evening program	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	3.0	—	4.0	3.9
Access a sleep disorders program	4.0	4.5	7.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	—	7.5	4.2
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	2.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	3.5	3.0	6.0	—	3.0	3.5
Unweighted Median	4.1	3.8	4.5	4.3	4.1	4.0	3.3	4.9	2.5	4.7	4.1

treatment within the week,[14] if it were available, is 74.1 percent (*Waiting Your Turn* 2012).

Waiting for diagnostic and therapeutic technology

Table B7 displays the median number of weeks patients must wait for access to a computed tomography (CT) or magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanner, or an electroencephalogram (EEG). Compared to 2011, the national waiting times for CT, MRI, and EEG scans have fallen in 2012. The median wait for a CT scan across the provinces is 4.0 weeks, ranging from a high of 7.0 weeks (New Brunswick), to a low of 2.5 weeks (Prince Edward Island). The median wait for an MRI across the provinces is 8.4 weeks. Patients in Newfoundland & Labrador wait the longest (25.8 weeks), while patients in Nova Scotia wait the least amount of time (4.5 weeks). Finally, the median wait for an

14 The survey asks psychiatrists what percentage of their patients currently waiting for treatment would agree to begin treatment tomorrow if an opening were to arise. However, comments by respondents of previous surveys indicate that at least some respondents answer the question as if it were "a few days."

Table B6: Psychiatry, 2012
Difference Between Actual and Reasonable Patient Waits for Treatment after Appointment with Specialist

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Initiate a course of brief psychotherapy	75%	100%	200%	31%	100%	100%	75%	50%	700%	438%	99%
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	100%	67%	150%	0%	71%	50%	150%	57%	700%	329%	70%
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	100%	100%	180%	0%	100%	50%	-17%	75%	357%	200%	86%
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	100%	175%	256%	50%	100%	150%	0%	0%	980%	583%	124%
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	88%	100%	140%	0%	150%	150%	14%	50%	740%	513%	133%
Access a day program	125%	267%	200%	71%	50%	100%	875%	71%	—	100%	94%
Access an eating disorders program	100%	300%	25%	150%	250%	300%	—	63%	—	100%	233%
Access a housing program	629%	450%	250%	100%	200%	125%	1633%	243%	267%	700%	302%
Access an evening program	300%	163%	100%	150%	50%	200%	225%	433%	—	0%	143%
Access a sleep disorders program	250%	478%	557%	217%	50%	363%	1350%	420%	—	100%	234%
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	200%	400%	300%	100%	150%	129%	33%	117%	—	33%	156%
Weighted Median	217%	229%	229%	82%	113%	154%	412%	139%	625%	265%	153%

Table B7: Waiting for Technology: Weeks Waited to Receive Selected Diagnostic Tests in 2012, 2011, and 2010

Province	CT-Scan			MRI			EEG		
	2012	2011	2010	2012	2011	2010	2012	2011	2010
British Columbia	4.0	6.0	6.0	11.0	19.0	12.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Alberta	4.0	3.0	5.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Saskatchewan	3.0	3.0	2.5	6.0	15.0	13.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
Manitoba	3.5	4.0	3.0	5.0	11.0	6.0	3.5	4.0	6.0
Ontario	4.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Quebec	4.0	4.0	7.0	8.0	7.0	12.0	2.5	4.0	4.0
New Brunswick	7.0	5.0	5.5	10.0	15.5	11.5	5.0	4.0	3.0
Nova Scotia	3.0	4.0	5.0	4.5	4.0	10.0	3.5	4.0	4.0
P.E.I.	2.5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Newfoundland	3.5	4.0	2.5	25.8	52.0	16.0	2.8	2.0	1.0
Canada	4.0	4.2	5.0	8.4	10.0	9.7	3.6	4.0	4.1

EEG across the provinces is 3.6 weeks. Residents of Quebec face the shortest waits for an EEG (2.5 weeks), while residents of Saskatchewan wait longest (6.0 weeks).[15]

Conclusion

The information documented here suggests that patients seeking mental health treatment are likely to be disappointed with their access. With a waiting time of 17.8 weeks from general practitioner referral to elective treatment, and with wait times from meeting with a specialist to elective treatment that are nearly 153 percent longer than specialists feel is appropriate, it is clear that many patients in need of psychiatric attention are facing the effects of rationing in our health care system.

15 For comparison, the overall Canadian median waiting time for CT scans was 3.7 weeks in the traditional 12 specialties and 4.0 weeks in the psychiatry survey, with a mean absolute difference (the average of absolute differences between the two measures in each province) of 1.4 weeks across all provinces. The overall Canadian median waiting time for MRIs in the psychiatry survey was the same as that for the other 12 specialties (8.4 weeks). The mean absolute difference in this case was 4.0 weeks for nine provinces.

Appendix C: The Fraser Institute National Waiting List Survey questionnaire

General Surgery

Please circle the province in which your office is located:

AB BC MB NB NL NS NT NU ON PE QC SK YT

1. From today, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for a routine office consultation with you? _____ week(s)

2. Do you restrict the number of patients waiting to see **you** in any manner? (i.e. Do you accept referrals only at certain times of the year?)
❑ Yes ❑ No

3. Over the past 12 months, what percentage of the surgical procedures you performed were done on a day surgery basis? _____ %

4. From today, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for the following types of elective surgery or diagnostic procedures? What would you consider to be a clinically reasonable waiting time for these types of surgery and procedures?

Surgery or Procedure	Number of Weeks to Wait	Reasonable Number of Weeks to Wait
Hernia repair (all types)/hydrocele		
Cholecystectomy		
Colonoscopy (diagnostic)		
Incision, excision, anastomosis of intestine and other operations on intestine		
Hemorrhoidectomy/other anal surgery		
Breast biopsy		
Mastectomy/segmental resection		
Operations on bronchus and lung		
Incidentally discovered and unruptured aneurysms		
Varicose vein surgery		

5. Has the length of your waiting lists changed since last year at this time?

❑ Increased ❑ Decreased ❑ Remained the Same

6. If the length of your waiting lists has changed, what are the major reasons for the change? (Check all which may be applicable.)

_____ Availability of O/R nurses
_____ Availability of other technical staff
_____ Availability of beds
_____ Availability of O/R time
_____ Change in patient load
_____ Availability of ancillary investigations or consultations (i.e. MRI, CT scans)
_____ Other

7. What percentage of your patients currently waiting for surgery are on a waiting list primarily because **they** requested a delay or postponement? _____ %

8. What percentage of your patients currently waiting for surgery do you think would agree to having their procedure performed tomorrow if an opening arose? _____ %

9. To the best of your knowledge, what percentage of your patients that are listed on hospital waiting lists might also be listed by other physicians for the same procedure? _____ %

10. Do you use the following types of diagnostic tests? If so, how long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for these tests?

Do you use this diagnostic test?	Yes	No	Infrequently	Number of weeks patients wait
CT Scan				
MRI				
Ultrasound				

11. Approximately what percentage of your patients **inquired** in the past 12 months about the availability of medical services:

In another province? _____ % Outside of Canada? _____ %

12. Approximately what percentage of your patients **received** non-emergency medical treatment in the past 12 months:

In another province? _____ % Outside of Canada? _____ %

Thank you very much for your assistance.

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