

Minister of Health



Legislative Building
Regina, Saskatchewan S4S 0B3

JUN 26 2020

MLA Larry Doke,
Chair, Standing Committee on Human Services

Dear Chair;

It is my pleasure to provide the Standing Committee on Human Services with the information that was requested on Monday, June 15th and Tuesday, June 16, 2020, during the Ministry of Health's appearance at Committee for consideration of estimates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jim Reiter".

Jim Reiter
Minister of Health

Patients waiting by procedure group and time already waited

Procedure group	30-Apr-2019 wait list				30-Apr-2020 wait list			
	All	> 3 mths	> 6 mths	> 12 mths	All	> 3 mths	> 6 mths	> 12 mths
Cataract Procedure	3,974	1,253	453	23	3,990	1,630	674	111
Knee Replacement (includes total, uni, revisions)	2,740	1,764	1,111	143	3,014	2,186	1,406	307
Restoration, Extraction and/or Cleaning of Teeth	1,611	622	417	212	1,551	848	450	173
Hip Replacement Total (includes revisions)	1,319	783	440	38	1,447	998	662	127
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	995	497	257	94	1,431	1,033	558	202
Naso-Septal Reconstruction	962	536	323	98	1,401	1,091	680	304
Hernia (Except Diaphragmatic)	779	274	113	29	972	484	191	38
Shoulder Repair	748	323	154	16	883	505	182	47
Eye Intervention (Except Cataract)	876	464	300	124	872	590	385	151
Laminectomy/Discectomy/Fusion/Decompress/Instramnt	570	287	148	37	639	365	168	32
Cholecystectomy	461	116	35	8	558	258	69	16
Hysterectomy	505	216	106	10	535	327	182	40
Arthroscopy Knee	467	118	37	3	471	170	34	4
Myringotomy	215	21	9	5	452	237	91	5
Caesarian Section	200	10	8	4	364	64	50	8
Sinus Interventions NEC	192	104	67	20	352	270	167	57
Ovary/Fallopian Tube Interventions NEC	279	101	28	0	333	156	65	4
Breast Interventions NEC	299	166	100	32	300	188	102	29
Peri-Anal Interventions	234	90	37	6	298	159	63	14
Ligation/Stripping/Sclerotherapy of Veins	259	138	75	13	279	156	107	49
Gyn Proc w Hysteroscope/Laparoscope/Culdoscope NEC	276	43	15	7	277	88	26	10
Tympanoplasty/Myringoplasty/Mastoidectomy	156	82	46	13	273	201	147	60
Skin & Subcutaneous Tissue Interventions	219	88	52	28	268	127	58	32
Ear/Nose/Mouth/Throat Interventions NEC	134	63	44	22	263	165	95	27
Removal of Hardware	198	59	23	3	237	100	47	8
Arthrodesis of Joint	111	42	17	3	179	85	42	6

Committee on Human Services – Health Follow-up from Day 1 – June 15, 2020

Brain/Spinal Cord Interventions NEC	144	88	79	54	178	92	55	21
Male Genital Interventions NEC	145	65	34	15	177	104	42	11
Prostatectomy (except radical)	112	32	15	2	159	81	40	3
Bunionectomy / Metatarsal Osteotomy	135	64	38	3	156	78	30	4
Cystoscopy (with/wo other procedure)	112	12	7	3	154	39	11	4
Release Carpal Tunnel	114	13	2	1	150	52	15	2
Exam Under Anaesthesia	50	12	7	3	147	109	53	6
Gynecological Interventions NEC	141	39	13	5	145	53	16	3
Arthroscopy other than Knee	99	19	6	1	142	71	30	1
Dilation & Curettage	148	33	21	15	138	46	27	18
Circumcision	119	39	8	5	126	51	15	4
Musculoskeletal System Interventions NEC	120	38	21	9	126	46	27	13
Parathyroidectomy	89	49	22	6	124	89	56	19
Thyroidectomy	70	20	11	7	118	67	44	12
Pelvic Floor Repair	100	49	27	9	112	64	28	10
Bladder Suspension	105	60	26	6	107	72	33	10
Endometrial Ablation	130	41	27	16	107	44	26	13
Resection Bowel/Colon/Rectum	91	15	9	2	106	55	29	4
Tendon Interventions	102	33	8	2	103	51	21	7
OTHER	2,154	779	443	222	2,427	1,177	675	288
Total	23,059	9,760	5,239	1,377	26,641	14,922	7,974	2,314

The data source is the 24-May-2020 cut of the surgical registry data mart.

The wait time is from booking to the snapshot date and excludes patient unavailable days.

Wait times are longer due to the COVID-19 restrictions on surgery that began around March 22, 2020.

The wait list has grown, but is expected to grow further as new bookings are down due to fewer visits with family doctors and fewer consultations with surgeons during the COVID-19 physical distancing.

Report source: SKSI-Trend-by-Patient-RHA-2020-05-24-HC.xlsx

How many MRIs have been performed in the hospital setting?

Of the 36,786 total patients who received a publically-funded MRI in 2019-20, 32,293 patients had their MRI in hospital and 4,493 patients went to a community-based provider.

- In-hospital: 32,293
- Community Based Provider: 4,493
- Total Patients: 36,786

How many responses were there to the RFP that was awarded to Mayfair Diagnostic in Saskatoon?

There were three vendors that bid on the RFP.

Are there any studies you are aware of regarding health concerns of ingesting asbestos?

- Inhalation of Asbestos fiber is a major concern and can result in lung cancer. The risk through drinking water is inconclusive.
- The lead regulator for municipal drinking water systems is the Water Security Agency (WSA). WSA has advised that the risk of exposure to asbestos through drinking water is inconclusive. This is supported by Health Canada's Canadian Drinking Water Quality Guidelines that state "There is no consistent, convincing evidence that ingested asbestos is hazardous. There is, therefore, no need to establish a maximum acceptable concentration for asbestos in drinking water."

Provide an update on banning flavoured vaping products

- A stakeholder consultation will be considered to determine future limitations on flavoured vaping products. At this time, no decisions have been made on when to proceed.
- Note: Staff that would do this work are currently focused on dealing with COVID-19 actions. Once additional staff are hired we can likely start working on this in Aug/Sept.

Provide the number of patients with mental health issue who have left ED without being seen in the last five years.

The Ministry of Health is working on extracting information from the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) to respond to this question.

What is the occupancy of each unit at SHNB?

The table below indicates the occupancy of each unit at SHNB as of June 18, 2020:

UNIT	Bed Count	Occupancy	Vacancy
Non Secure A	24	11	13
Non Secure B	24	18	6
Non Secure C	24	0	24
Non Secure D	24	21	3
Sub total	96	50	46
Complex Care	36 (3x12)	34	2
Forensics	30	16	14
Subtotal	162	100	62
Remand	12	0	12
Community Reintegration Unit	14	7	7
Total (Non Secure)	188	107	81

Will St. Joseph's new Addictions Treatment beds accept people who need Opioid Substitution Therapy?

Yes, and will initiate Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) when required.

How will St. Joseph's Addictions Treatment facility provide treatments? What is the treatment plan?

St. Joseph's Hospital in Estevan will implement a model of care that is inclusive of medically supervised detox, a biopsychosocial assessment period, multi-modal treatment, community integration and ongoing outpatient care. Treatment will involve both group and individual therapies including motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioral therapy, mindfulness and contingency planning approaches as well as life skill programming that enhance the recovery-oriented principles.

The continuum of care will include acute intervention that is tailored to the client and typically would last a period of 34-60 days, this is followed up by sustained intervention for a period of 12-18 months where the program participant would be followed in the community. During this post-treatment period, some may reside in a post-treatment bed which is incorporated into St. Joseph's Treatment Centre design.

This new treatment facility will develop clinical guidelines and other clinical best practices related to crystal meth treatment that can be shared with other facilities across the province.

How much will it cost to refurbish the existing space in St. Joseph's to meet the needs of the new Addictions Treatment beds? [SHA said under \$100K, but needs to confirm].

Refurbishment costs are estimated at \$90,000.

How many staff will support the new Addictions Treatment Beds at St. Joseph's?

This number may vary, however based on preliminary budget information provided to the Ministry of Health, 16 FTEs will support the treatment centre.

How many HIV tests have been performed to-date in 2020?

HIV Testing Numbers to May 2020

The Saskatchewan HIV Collaborative three-year work plan (2017 – 2020) identified a goal to increase annual HIV testing by 15% by December 31, 2019. The total number of HIV tests in 2016 (76,675) was used as the baseline. A number of strategies were implemented by partners to increase routine and targeted HIV testing. The percent increase in total tests from 2016 to 2019 was 22%. The annual increases are outlined below.

- The percent change of total tests from 2016 to 2017 was 5.7%.
- The percent change of total tests from 2016 to 2018 was 11.8%.
- The percent change of total tests from 2016 to 2019 was 22.4%.

Increased testing results in earlier case identification and access to treatment. As new testing methods and technologies are introduced, our efforts to expand testing for HIV and other sexually transmitted and blood borne infections will continue.

A summary of historical data and the current monthly HIV testing numbers, categorized by former health region is provided below. This data includes testing figures from the Roy Romanow Provincial Lab (RRPL) only. Point of Care testing figures are not currently available.

Table 1: HIV lab tests performed at RRPL by former RHA, 2016 – May 2020

Former RHA	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020						% change ³ (2016 to 2017)	% change (2016 to 2018)	% change (2016 to 2019)
					JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	TOTAL			
SCHR	2,400	2,193	2,328	2,374	191	162	149	76	108	686	↓8.6%	↓3.0%	↓1.1%
FHHR	2,080	2,075	2,119	2,273	174	168	166	70	99	677	↓0.2%	↑1.9%	↑9.3%
CHR	1,362	1,690	1,542	1,509	158	121	98	44	80	501	↑24.1%	↑13.2%	↑10.8%
RQHR	23,150	24,427	27,345	29,031	2,377	2,275	1,758	719	1,072	8,201	↑5.5%	↑18.1%	↑25.4%
SHR	2,578	2,993	2,665	2,748	213	199	183	63	95	753	↑16.1%	↑3.4%	↑6.6%
SKHR	28,741	30,511	31,496	34,342	3,233	2,662	2,399	1,006	1,637	10,937	↑6.2%	↑9.6%	↑19.5%
HHR	1,076	1,023	933	1,080	90	101	82	53	84	410	↓4.9%	↓13.3%	↑0.4%
KTTHR	1,245	1,254	1,304	1,484	145	127	118	65	85	540	↑0.7%	↑4.7%	↑19.2%
PAHR	6,756	6,824	7,481	7,943	696	585	530	181	230	2,222	↑1%	↑10.7%	↑17.6%
PNHR	4,584	4,882	5,052	6,499	634	583	483	188	225	2,113	↑6.5%	↑10.2%	↑41.8%
MCHR	1,506	1,666	1,776	2,157	216	256	149	46	79	746	↑10.6%	↑17.9%	↑43.2%
KYHR	907	1,157	1,227	1,259	98	124	96	25	26	369	↑27.6%	↑35.3%	↑38.8%
AHA	187	189	173	293	34	22	26	8	12	102	↑1.1%	↓7.5%	↑56.7%
OOP ¹	103	146	176	135	18	8	13	6	28	73	–	–	–
OBS ²	–	–	78	705	N/A ⁴	N/A ⁴	N/A ⁴	N/A ⁴	N/A ⁴	N/A ⁴	–	–	–
TOTAL	76,675	81,030	85,695	93,832⁵	8,277	7,393	6,250	2,550	3,860	28,330	↑5.7%	↑11.8%	↑22.4%

¹Out of province

²Dry Blood Spot (OBS) Testing – RRPL began performing the test in November 2018; figures are not categorized by former RHA

³Note that the % change should be interpreted with caution, as the change will appear higher in smaller areas where fewer tests are being done on an annual basis.

⁴N/A – not yet available; will be updated in future reports

⁵Preliminary as OBS testing numbers are not yet complete

Table 2: Total HIV lab tests in the province performed at RRPL, 2011-2015

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total number of tests	54,463	60,357	65,180	67,971	72,659

For years 2011-2015, a different methodology for determining testing numbers was used; thus, these years cannot be compared to the more recent years (i.e., 2016-2019).

How many staff are employed in Home Care in the SHA? Provide a table that shows nursing, meal and home making service FTEs from 2014-15 to 2018-19.

YEAR	SHA HOME CARE FTE'S (all classifications)
2014-15	1450.36
2015-16	1406.01
2016-17	1359.40
2017-18	1323.96
2018-19	1329.60

The FTE's in this table include all job classifications in Home Care. We are not able to delineate the FTE's by nursing and other providers.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, how many home care staff were redeployed?

SHA officials have shared that there have been 62 individual Home Care staff re-deployed during Covid-19.

During the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, how many home care staff have been redeployed?

Total # of Deployed Employees by Classification	
Classification	# of Employees by Classification
Assessor Coordinator	1
Registered Nurse B	1
Registered Nurse A	37
Licensed Practical Nurse	6
Continuing Care Assistant	12
Palliative Care Coordinator	1
LPN/Recreation Working Supervisor	1
Home Care Scheduler	2
Office Administrative Assistant	1
Total	62