



## **Regional Contacts**

Regional Wait List Office  
(709) 637-5000, Extension 6080

Regional Wait List Manager  
(709) 634-4339



## **Quality Management & Research**

Western Health  
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## **Waiting For Surgery**

***What you need to know.***



**Western  
Health**

### OUR VISION

The vision of Western Health is that the people of Western Newfoundland have the highest level of health and well being possible.



**Western  
Health**



## ***Waiting for surgery...***

There are 2500 surgeries performed every year in the hospitals that serve the people of Western Newfoundland and Labrador. This brochure will give you some of the important information you may need to help you understand how the system works, what your options are and who to contact if you have any concerns.

The length of time you may have to wait is affected by many factors:

- The surgery or procedure you need.
- Your health condition.
- The availability of hospital staff.
- The time of year.
- The surgeon.

***You doctor will classify your surgery as...***

### ***EMERGENT***

You have a life threatening condition that requires immediate treatment. For this, you will not be placed on a wait list.

### ***URGENT***

You definitely require surgery but it is not an emergency. Patients will usually wait a short time. For instance, patients requiring surgery for cancer would be treated as urgent.

### ***ELECTIVE***

Patients that require surgery but their condition is not considered to pose a threat to their life or health.



## ***Who do I call?***

If you have any concerns about your waiting time or if your condition worsens you may contact your physician or the Wait List Manager.

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The Wait List Manager can help you by:

- Checking to see if you have a date or time for your procedure.
- Confirming that you are on a wait list for surgery or a procedure.
- Giving you an idea how much longer you may have to wait.

***Take responsibility for your health care.***



## ***Ask your doctor...***

When it comes to your health, it is important to discuss your options with your doctor. You may wish to ask the following questions:

- How long will I have to wait for my surgery or test?
- Is there somewhere else where I can have it done sooner?
- What do I do if my condition gets worse?
- Is there anything I can do to prevent delays in my care?
- Will I be contacted if there are cancellations?
- What do I do if my condition improves and I no longer want the surgery or procedure?

