

MEDIA RELEASE:

For Immediate Release

August 22, 2017

NGH Surgery Wait Times now Online

A new online tool is available to see and compare wait times for surgical procedures at Norfolk General Hospital and hospitals across the province. Health Quality Ontario (HQO) developed this system to measure the average time from when a patient is referred for consultation, to their first appointment with the surgeon (Wait 1) and the average time from when a patient and clinician agree to a surgery, to the actual date of the procedure (Wait 2). The data is available on the HQO website to help our community make better, more informed decisions about their health.

HQO tracks data on NGH Digestive System/Gall Bladder and Cataract surgeries. Patients waiting for these procedures are categorized as Priority 4: experiencing some pain or symptoms which will not dramatically affect quality of life and as Priority 3: minimal risk.

For Digestive System/Gall Bladder surgeries, 100 percent of patients were seen within provincial target time of 90 of days. The average time to patient first surgical appointment provincially is 26 days compared with 15 days for Norfolk General Hospital. The provincial target time for decision to surgery is 90 days. The provincial average is 35 days compared with 40 days at NGH.

“This data demonstrates how valuable it is for our community to have these vital services close to home; you won’t wait as long to get in to see a surgeon for consult and you won’t wait long for your surgery.” remarked Sherry Chambers, Director of Perioperative Services and Ambulatory Care

As for Cataract surgeries, 100 percent of patients were seen within provincial target time of 182 days. The average time to patient first surgical or specialist appointment provincially is 76 days compared with 80 days for NGH. However, the provincial target wait time from decision to having eye surgery is 182 days. The wait time average is 94 days provincially compared with 323 days for NGH.

“Getting (a patient) into the office seems to be going well but it would appear it takes almost a year to have surgery. However, there is much more behind the numbers” said Dr. John Thorpe, Ophthalmologist and NGH Vice President of Medical Staff “The numbers of cases I can do are fixed on a yearly basis by the LHIN (Local Health Integrated Network).” NGH performs 424 funded cataract surgeries yearly.



365 West Street, Simcoe, Ontario N3Y 1T7
www.ngh.on.ca
519-426-0130 Ext.6977

MEDIA RELEASE:

For Immediate Release

Surgery wait times for NGH and all other Ontario hospitals are available through the Health Quality Ontario website:

<http://www.hqontario.ca/System-Performance/Wait-Times-for-Surgeries-and-Procedures>

Gerry Hamill
Communication Specialist
519-426-0130 ext. 2454
ghamill@ngh.on.ca

“Our mission is to relieve illness and suffering, and help people live healthier lives.”

