

Island Health Performance Measures

Colonoscopy Wait Times



Year to Date
Performance

34%

Island Health
Target

Less than or equal to
15%

Performance
Assessment



Red

Performance is significantly outside acceptable range; take action and monitor progress.

What do we measure and why?

Colon cancer is easier to treat when found at an early stage. With early detection and treatment, the chance of survival is more than 90%. The provision of colonoscopies, including those performed in the Colon Screening Program, is part of a provincial initiative to improve accessibility.

Each person waiting for a colonoscopy is assigned a priority code and a corresponding wait time. Colonoscopy Wait Times is a measure of the percentage of patients who have been waiting on the colonoscopy waitlist longer than the benchmark for their priority code, as established by the Ministry of Health.

The colonoscopy waitlist includes those participating in the Colon Screening Program, as well as those who have been scheduled for a procedure based on surveillance, family history, or signs and symptoms.

What is the target?

The Island Health target for 2019/20 (as established by the Ministry of Health) is that 15% or fewer patients wait longer than the benchmark. Greater than 20% would be flagged as red, requiring action.

Based on cases completed, over half of all cases are assigned a priority of semi-urgent which has a benchmark of 8 weeks. Approximately 40% of cases are elective (26-week benchmark), and 6% are urgent (2-week benchmark). Each case is assessed against its benchmark.

How are we doing?

As of January 2020, Island Health was not meeting the target for colonoscopy wait times. These wait times include cases inside and outside the Colon Screening Program.

Despite this performance, the actual waitlist continues to significantly decrease, and the number of completed cases is exceeding targets.

What actions are we taking?

Island Health is working at increasing access to colonoscopies and focusing on wait list management to decrease wait times.

Construction of a third endoscopy suite at Nanaimo Regional General Hospital is expected to be completed by Spring 2020.