

# Waiting Your Turn

**Wait Times for Health Care in Canada, 2018 Report**



**by Bacchus Barua and David Jacques**

with Antonia Collyer



2018 • Fraser Institute

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## Executive summary

Waiting for treatment has become a defining characteristic of Canadian health care. In order to document the queues for visits to specialists and for diagnostic and surgical procedures in the country, the Fraser Institute has—for over two decades—surveyed specialist physicians across 12 specialties and 10 provinces.

This edition of *Waiting Your Turn* indicates that, overall, waiting times for medically necessary treatment have decreased since last year. Specialist physicians surveyed report a median waiting time of 19.8 weeks between referral from a general practitioner and receipt of treatment—shorter than the wait of 21.2 weeks reported in 2017. This year’s wait time is 113% longer than in 1993, when it was just 9.3 weeks.

There is a great deal of variation in the total waiting time faced by patients across the provinces. Saskatchewan reports the shortest total wait (15.4 weeks), while New Brunswick reports the longest (45.1 weeks). There is also a great deal of variation among specialties. Patients wait longest between a GP referral and orthopaedic surgery (39.0 weeks), while those waiting for medical oncology begin treatment in 3.8 weeks.

The total wait time that patients face can be examined in two consecutive segments.

**1 From referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist.** The waiting time in this segment decreased from 10.2 weeks in 2017 to 8.7 weeks this year. This wait time is 136% longer than in 1993, when it was 3.7 weeks. The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in Saskatchewan (6.3 weeks) while the longest occur in New Brunswick (28.5 weeks).

**2 From the consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment.** The waiting time in this segment increased from 10.9 weeks in 2017 to 11.0 weeks this year. This wait time is 97% longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks, and more than three weeks longer than what physicians consider to be clinically “reasonable” (7.7 weeks). The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in Ontario (8.3 weeks), while the longest are in Manitoba (19.7 weeks).

It is estimated that, across the 10 provinces, the total number of procedures for which people are waiting in 2018 is 1,082,541. This means that, assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.9% of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2018. The proportion of the population waiting for treatment varies from a low of 1.7% in Quebec to a high of 6.2% in Nova Scotia. It is important to note that physicians report that only about 12.1% of their patients are on a waiting list because they requested a delay or postponement.

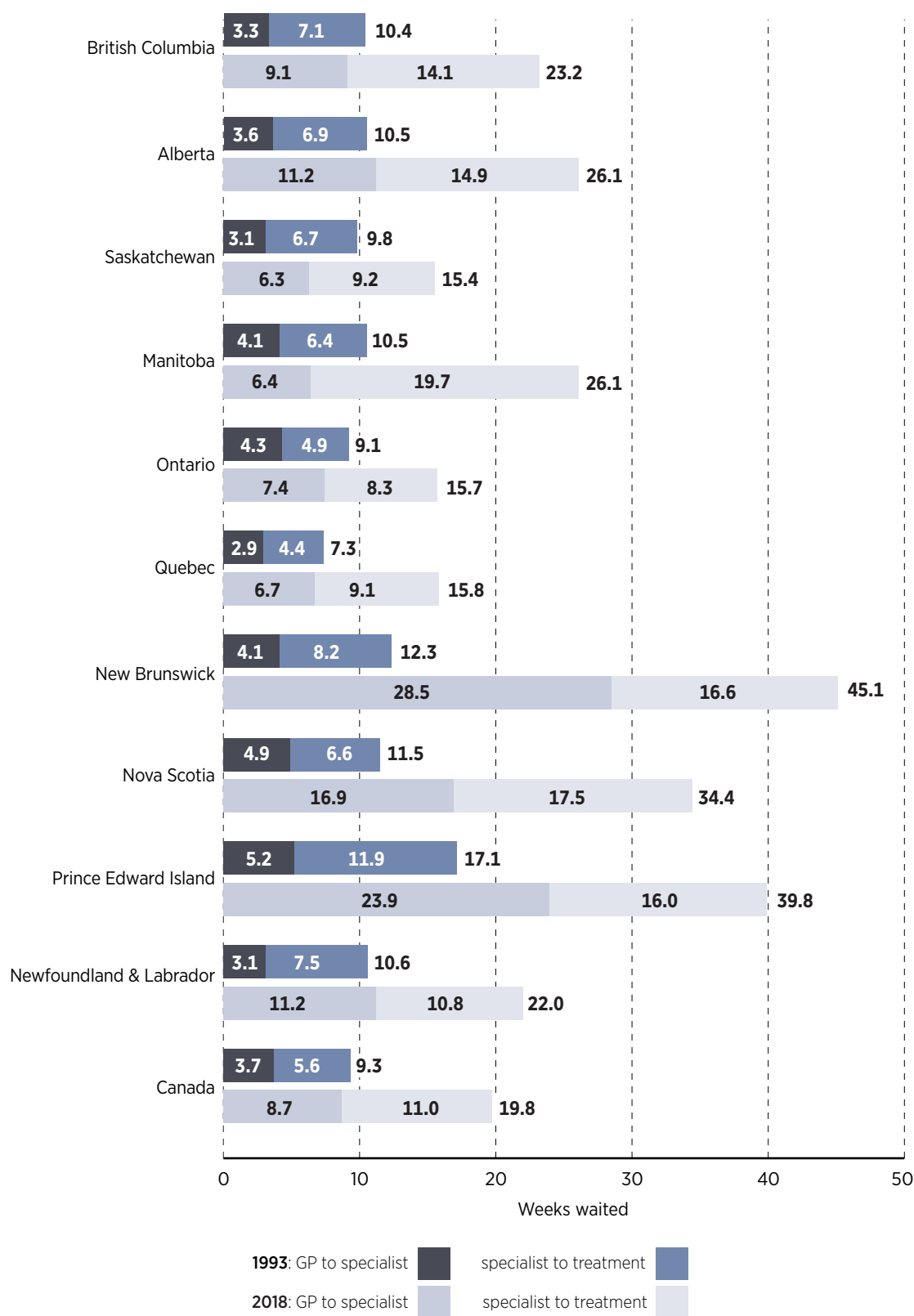
Patients also experience significant waiting times for various diagnostic technologies across the provinces. This year, Canadians could expect to wait 4.3 weeks for a computed tomography (CT) scan, 10.6 weeks for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan, and 3.9 weeks for an ultrasound.

Research has repeatedly indicated that wait times for medically necessary treatment are not benign inconveniences. Wait times can, and do, have serious consequences such as increased pain, suffering, and mental anguish. In certain instances, they can also result in poorer medical outcomes—transforming potentially reversible illnesses or injuries into chronic, irreversible conditions, or even permanent disabilities. In many instances, patients may also have to forgo their wages while they wait for treatment, resulting in an economic cost to the individuals themselves and the economy in general.

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



### Median wait from referral by GP to treatment, by province, 1993 and 2018



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2018; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

**This publication has four series of illustrations and tabular material.**

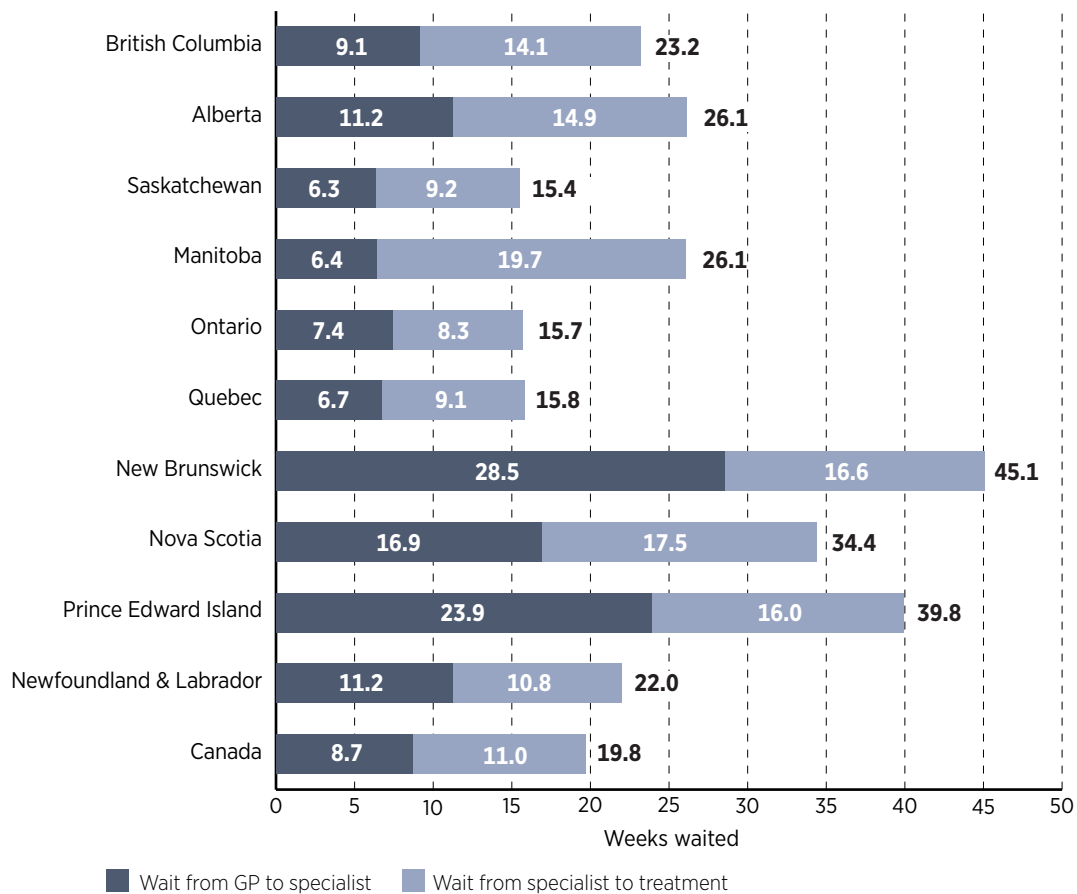
- Charts, which may be graphs or tables, will be found in the main text, pp. 1–17.
- Graphs will be found in “Selected graphs”, pp. 18–32.
- Tables will be found in “Selected tables”, pp. 33–68.
- “Appendix B: Psychiatry Waiting List Survey, 2018 Report”, pp. 70–77, has tables and a graph labeled “B1” and so on.

## Findings

### Total wait times

The Fraser Institute's twenty-eighth annual waiting list survey finds that wait times [1] for surgical and other therapeutic treatments decreased in 2018 (table 2; chart 1). The total waiting time between referral from a general practitioner and delivery of medically necessary elective treatment by a specialist, averaged across all 12 specialties and 10 provinces surveyed, has dropped from 21.2 weeks in 2017 to 19.8 weeks in 2018. This

**Chart 1: Median wait by province in 2018—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment**



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

year's wait time is 113% longer than in 1993, when it was just 9.3 weeks. The improvement in wait-times nationwide relative to last year reflects decreases in British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Quebec, and Nova Scotia while concealing increases in Manitoba, Ontario, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island, and Newfoundland & Labrador.

Saskatchewan reports the shortest total wait in 2018 (15.4 weeks), followed by Ontario (15.7 weeks) and Quebec (15.8 weeks). New Brunswick has the longest total wait at 45.1 weeks, followed by Prince Edward Island (39.8 weeks) and Nova Scotia (34.4 weeks).

## Wait time by segment

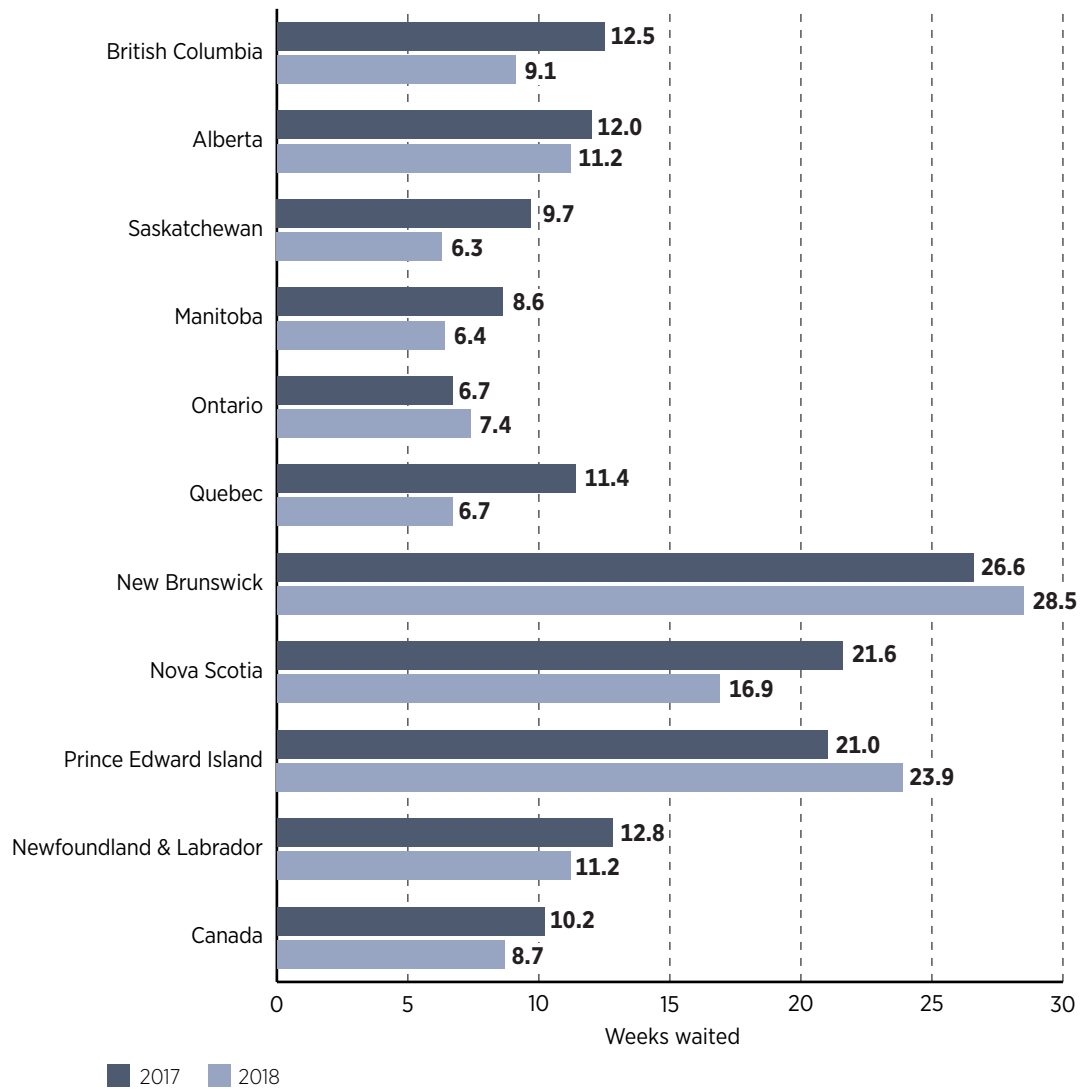
Total wait time can be examined in two consecutive segments:

- 1 from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist;
- 2 from the consultation with a specialist to point at which patient receives treatment.

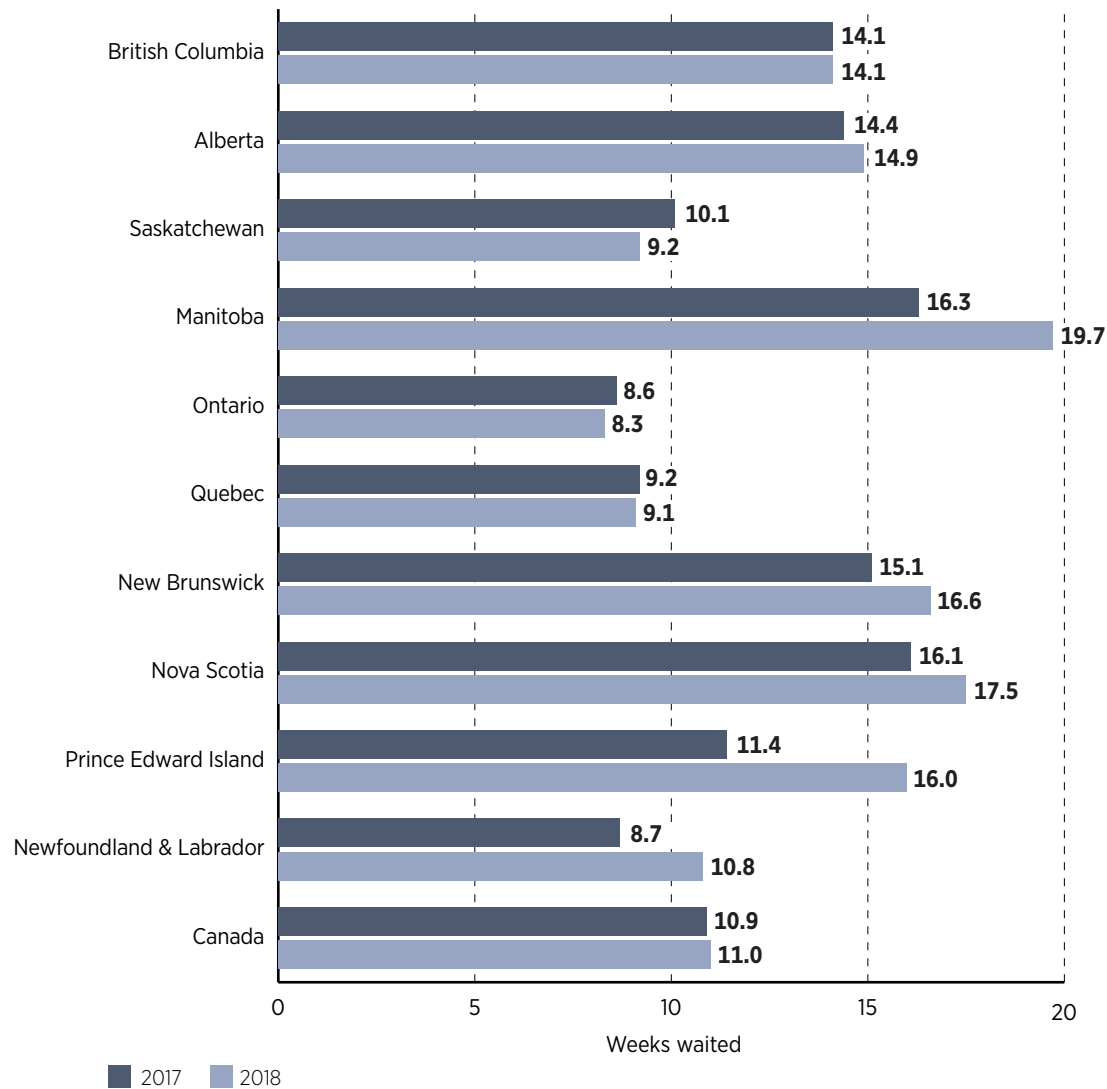
The decrease in total waiting time between 2017 and 2018 results from a decrease in the first segment. The waiting time in the first segment—from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist—has dropped from 10.2 weeks in 2017 to 8.7 weeks in 2018. This wait time is 136% longer than in 1993, when it was 3.7 weeks ([graph 1](#); [graph 2](#)). The waiting time to see a specialist has decreased in seven provinces since 2017, but has increased in Ontario, New Brunswick, and Prince Edward Island ([chart 2](#)). The shortest waits for specialist consultations are in Saskatchewan (6.3 weeks), Manitoba (6.4 weeks), and Quebec (6.7 weeks). The longest waits for specialist consultations are found in New Brunswick (28.5 weeks), Prince Edward Island (23.9 weeks), and Nova Scotia (16.9 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 risen from 10.9 weeks in 2017 to 11.0 weeks in 2018 ([chart 3](#)). This portion of waiting is 97% longer than in 1993 when it was 5.6 weeks ([graph 3](#); [graph 4](#)). Waiting times from specialist consultation to treatment have increased in six provinces, decreased in Saskatchewan, Ontario, and Quebec, and remained unchanged in British Columbia. The shortest specialist-to-treatment waits are found in Ontario (8.3 weeks), Quebec (9.1 weeks), and Saskatchewan (9.2 weeks), while the longest are in Manitoba (19.7 weeks), Nova Scotia (17.5 weeks), and New Brunswick (16.6 weeks) ([table 4](#)).

**Chart 2: Wait by province in 2017 and 2018—weeks waited from referral by GP to appointment with specialist**



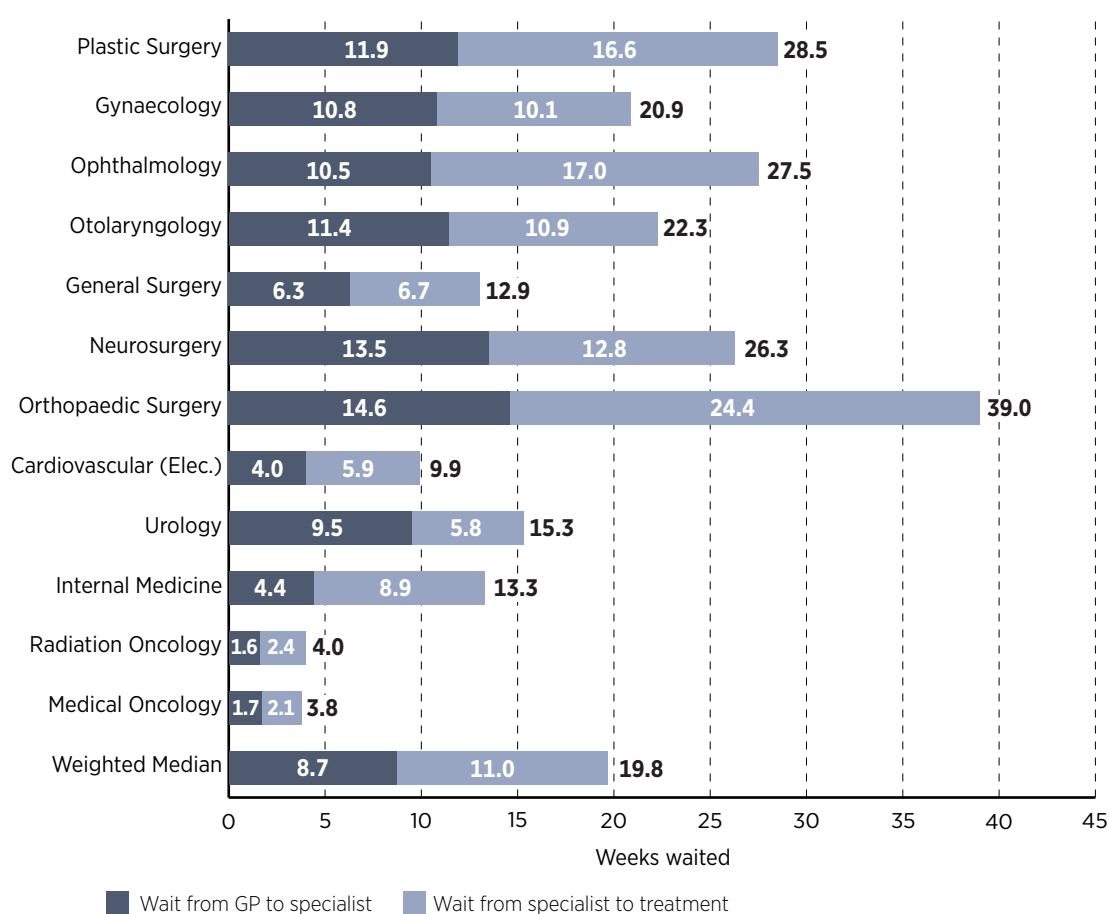
**Chart 3: Wait by province in 2017 and 2018—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment**



## Waiting by specialty

Among the various specialties, the shortest total waits exist for medical oncology (3.8 weeks), radiation oncology (4.0 weeks), and elective cardiovascular surgery (9.9 weeks). Conversely, patients wait longest between a referral by a GP and orthopaedic surgery (39.0 weeks), plastic surgery (28.5 weeks), and ophthalmology (27.5 weeks) (table 2; chart 4). The largest increases in waits between 2017 and 2018 have been for plastic surgery (2.0 weeks), otolaryngology (1.6 weeks), and urology (0.7 weeks). Such increases are offset by decreases in wait times for patients receiving treatment in the fields like neurosurgery (–6.6 weeks), ophthalmology (–3.9 weeks) and orthopaedic surgery (–2.6 weeks).

**Chart 4: Median wait by specialty in 2018—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment**



Breaking waiting time down into its two components, there is also variation among specialties. The shortest waits from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a specialist are in radiation oncology (1.6 weeks), medical oncology (1.7 weeks), and cardiovascular surgery (4.0 weeks). The longest waits are for orthopaedic surgery (14.6 weeks), neurosurgery (13.5 weeks), and plastic surgery (11.9 weeks) ([table 3](#)).

For the second segment—from consultation with a specialist to the point at which the patient receives treatment—patients wait the shortest intervals for urgent cardiovascular surgery (1.0 weeks), medical oncology (2.1 weeks), and radiation oncology (2.4 weeks). They wait longest for orthopaedic surgery (24.4 weeks), ophthalmology (17.0 weeks), and plastic surgery (16.6 weeks) ([table 4](#); [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

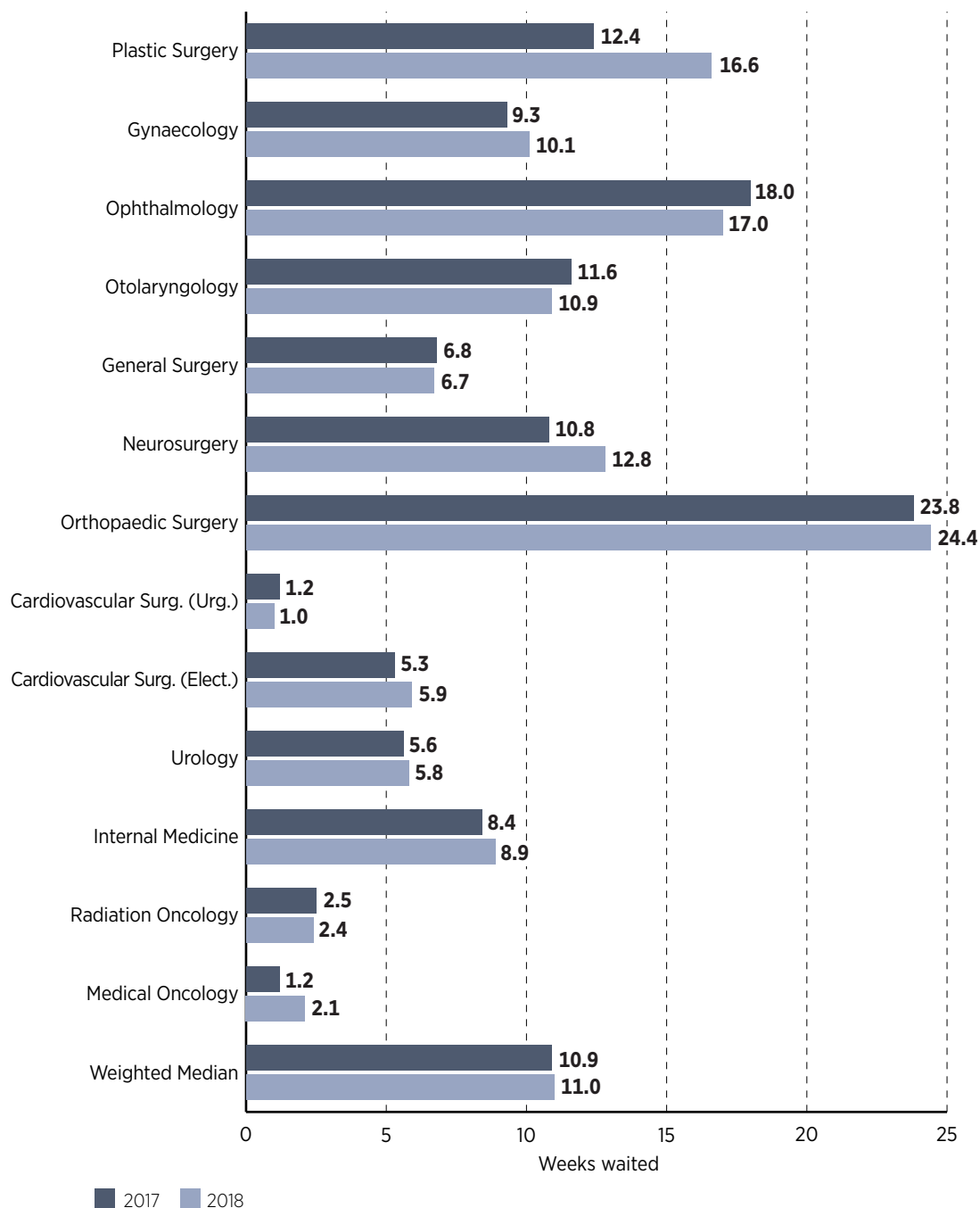
Specialists are also surveyed as to what they regard as clinically “reasonable” waiting times in the second segment covering the time spent from specialist consultation to delivery of treatment. Out of the 96 categories (some comparisons were precluded by missing data), actual waiting time ([table 4](#)) exceeds reasonable waiting time ([table 8](#)) in 72% of the comparisons. Averaged across all specialties, Saskatchewan and Quebec have come closest to meeting the standard of “reasonable” wait times. Their actual second-segment waits exceed the corresponding “reasonable” values by only 3% and 7%, respectively. It should be noted, however, that physicians in Newfoundland & Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Manitoba, and Ontario hold relatively more stringent standards as to what is “reasonable” ([table 10](#)). The greatest difference between these two values across all provinces for a specialty is in orthopaedic surgery, where the actual waiting time is 11.0 weeks longer than what is considered to be “reasonable” by specialists ([chart 6](#)). [2] Median reasonable wait times for specific procedures within a specialty, by province, are shown in [tables 9A–9L](#).

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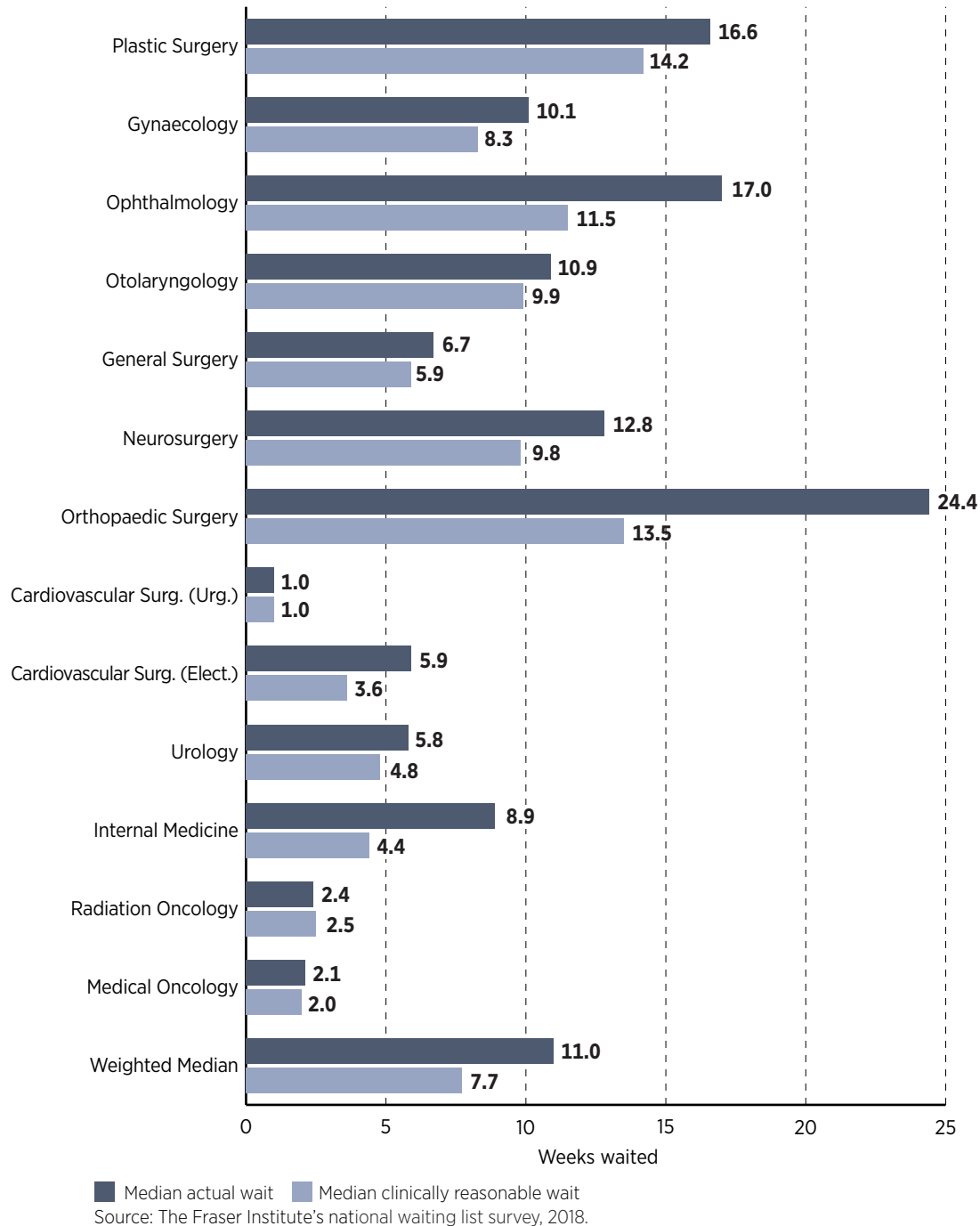
2. The greatest proportional difference for a specialty is in Internal Medicine, where the actual waiting time exceeds the corresponding reasonable value by 105%.



**Chart 5: Wait by specialty in 2017 and 2018—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment**



**Chart 6: Median actual wait compared to median clinically reasonable wait by specialty in Canada in 2018—weeks waited from appointment with specialist to treatment**



## 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 increased to 4.3 weeks in 2018 from 4.1 weeks in 2017. Saskatchewan has the shortest wait for a CT scan (2.8 weeks), while the longest waits occur in British Columbia, Alberta, and New Brunswick (6.0 weeks). The wait for a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scan has decreased to 10.6 weeks in 2018 from 10.8 weeks in 2017. Patients in Ontario face the shortest wait for an MRI (6.0 weeks), while residents of British Columbia wait longest (20.0 weeks). Finally, the wait for an ultrasound has not changed in 2018, staying at the same 3.9 weeks as it was in 2017. Saskatchewan has the shortest wait for an ultrasound (1.1 weeks), while Newfoundland & Labrador has the longest: 10.5 weeks ([chart 7](#)).

**Chart 7: Waiting for technology: weeks waited to receive selected diagnostic tests in 2018, 2017, and 2016**

	CT-Scan			MRI			Ultrasound		
	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016
British Columbia	6.0	6.0	5.0	20.0	24.0	24.0	4.0	5.0	5.5
Alberta	6.0	6.0	4.0	16.0	16.0	12.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Saskatchewan	2.8	3.0	3.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	1.1	2.0	4.0
Manitoba	5.0	5.0	4.0	12.0	13.0	12.0	6.3	5.0	4.5
Ontario	3.5	3.0	3.0	6.0	6.0	6.0	2.0	2.0	2.0
Quebec	4.0	4.0	4.0	10.5	10.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	8.0
New Brunswick	6.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	6.0	6.0
Nova Scotia	4.0	6.0	4.0	18.0	9.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	4.0
Prince Edward Island	3.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	24.0	16.0	3.5	6.0	6.0
Newfoundland & Labrador	5.0	4.0	4.0	10.0	7.0	4.0	10.5	5.9	6.0
<b>Canada</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>10.6</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.0</b>

Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2018.

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

## 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 2018 is 1,082,541 ([table 12](#); [table 14](#) presents the numbers for the provinces on a population-adjusted basis), an increase of 4.0% from the estimated 1,040,791 procedures in 2017. The estimated number of procedures for which people are waiting increased in all provinces except Saskatchewan and Ontario. Assuming that each person waits for only one procedure, 2.9% of Canadians are waiting for treatment in 2018, which varies from a low of 1.7% of the population in Quebec to a high of 6.2% in Nova Scotia. [\[3\]](#) [Tables 13A–13L](#) (pp. 55–60) show the number of procedures for which people are waiting within a specialty, by province.

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**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

The data for this issue of *Waiting Your Turn* were collected between January 11 and May 15, 2018. Survey questionnaires [4] were sent to practitioners in 12 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 17% (table 1). The major findings from the survey responses are summarized in table 2 to table 15.

This study replicates methods used in previous editions but, like the surveys of 2015 to 2017, this year's survey contains fewer questions than in previous years (2014 and earlier). Both versions of the survey are included for comparison (Appendixes C, D). Because data from the eliminated questions were treated independently of calculated medians, there is no reason to believe that their removal will have a material impact on the results contained in this edition of the report.

As with previous editions, this study is designed to estimate the wait for medically necessary 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–5L, are calculated by multiplying the median wait for each procedure (e.g., mammoplasty or neurolysis for plastic surgery) by a weight—the fraction of all

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4. Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Limited provided mailing lists, drawn from the Canadian Medical Association's membership rolls. Unlike lists of past years, this year's list included doctors with multiple specialties, many of which are outside the purview of the 12 specialties the *Waiting Your Turn* questionnaire is designed for. In order to stay consistent with previous surveys, we include only doctors associated exclusively with the 12 specialties for which the *Waiting Your Turn* questionnaire is designed. For instances where doctors in this year's list were associated with more than one of the 12 specialties included in our survey design, the unique specialty they were associated with previously was used. Specialists were offered a chance to a \$2000 cash prize (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. The specialties of internal medicine, medical oncology, neurosurgery, and radiation oncology also include non-elective wait times.

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

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–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 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 the Canadian Institute for Health Information’s 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 Cancer Society’s Steering Committee on Cancer Statistics (2017) [\[7\]](#) as well as, for 2016/17, from the Discharge Abstract Database (DAD) (CIHI, 2018a), the National Ambulatory Care Reporting System (NACRS) (CIHI, 2018b), and the Hospital Morbidity Database (HMDB) (CIHI, 2018c) published by the Canadian Institute for Health Information

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7. Radiation oncology and medical oncology were weighted using data from 2017 because this was the most recent data available from the Canadian Cancer Statistics Advisory Committee.

(CIHI). There are a number of minor problems in matching the CIHI's categories of operations to those reported in the Fraser Institute's 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: for example, if plastic surgeons constitute 75% 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 ophthalmological 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.

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 physicians 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.

Finally, when interpreting median wait-time data for procedures, specialties, and provinces, it is important to take note of the number of responses upon which estimates are based. These are contained in [tables 1a–c](#). For example, the number of survey responses in parts of Atlantic Canada are notably lower than in other provinces, which may result in reported median wait times being higher or lower than those actually experienced.

*The authors recommend particular caution this year when interpreting the wait times for treatment in Quebec and Prince Edward Island.*

## Comparisons of Data from Other Sources

### Estimates of wait times measured by provincial governments

On November 15, 2018, we sent preliminary data to provincial ministries of health, and to provincial cancer and cardiac agencies. A list of links to wait-times data published by provincial government agencies can be found in [Appendix A](#).

While it is encouraging that provincial governments have gradually come to recognize the value of measuring and reporting wait times for medically necessary procedures and treatments, there are a number of reasons that their estimates should be interpreted with caution.

**1** Many provinces still do not measure the wait time between the date a patient receives a referral from a general practitioner and the consultation with a specialist. Although there are some notable exceptions, many provinces focus only on 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 a referral by a general practitioner and the consultation with a specialist.

**2** Even when examining only the waiting time between seeing a specialist and receiving treatment, many provinces only start their wait-time clocks when the operating room booking information for a case is received by the hospital. Using this definition may understate 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 and 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 (Ramsay, 1998).

**3** In years past, wait-times data from certain provinces have been found to be remarkably low when compared to the number of procedures they report to have been



actually completed and the number of patients reported to be waiting for treatment. Previous reports by the Fraser Institute (for example, *Waiting Your Turn*, 2009) have consistently demonstrated how, in those provinces, either there had to have been fewer people waiting or significantly more surgeries being completed, or the government's reported wait time must have been incorrect.

**4** Because of differences in the number of specialties and procedures included, as well as different definitions of how wait times are measured, estimates from provincial governments are usually not comparable among provinces or across time (usually only going back a few years). The Fraser Institute measures wait times for the same set of specialties across all provinces, employs a consistent methodology, and has published annual estimates for over two decades.

Comprehensive comparisons of wait time estimates from provincial governments with data from the Fraser Institute can be found in previous versions of *Waiting Your Turn*.

## **Verification and comparison of earlier data with independent sources**

The waiting list data can be verified by comparison with independently computed estimates, primarily those found in academic journals. A previous analysis examined 95 independent waiting-time estimates comparable with the Fraser Institute's figures. In 59 of the 95 cases, the Fraser Institute's figures lay below the comparison values. In only 31 instances did the Institute value exceed the comparison value, and in five cases they were identical. This evidence strongly suggests that the Fraser 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 8** 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 for radiation therapy and cardiac bypass surgery in many provinces are already within the benchmarks set by governments in Canada, which means

that according to these benchmarks, more than 50% of patients in these provinces are already being treated in a time frame that provincial governments consider “reasonable”. [8] This year, however, the median wait time for hip and knee replacements as measured by this report (arthroplasty—hip, knee, ankle, shoulder) and cataract surgery exceed the pan-Canadian Benchmark wait time.

**Chart 8: Pan-Canadian benchmark wait times and *Waiting Your Turn* 2018**

Procedure (Pan-Canadian Benchmark/ <i>Waiting Your Turn</i> )	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	2.4 (1.0–6.4)	2.5 (1.6–5.2)
Hip Replacements	within 26 weeks	28.1 (17.0–52.0)	14.2 (12.0–24.5)
Knee Replacements	within 26 weeks	28.1 (17.0–52.0)	14.2 (12.0–24.5)
Cataract Surgery	within 16 weeks for patients who are at high risk	19.8 (12.0–44.5)	12.6 (9.0–16.0)
Cardiac Bypass Surgery	Level I within 2 weeks/ Level II within 6 weeks/ Level III within 26 weeks	Emergent: 0.2 (0.0–1.0)/ Urgent: 1.1 (0.4–4.5)/ Elective: 7.6 (4.0–20.0)	Emergent: 0.1 (0.0–1.0)/ Urgent: 1.1 (0.4–3.0)/ Elective: 3.1 (2.3–8.0)

[1] These wait times for individual procedures were produced 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, 2018.

8. 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% of patients have been treated and 50% of patients are still waiting for treatment.

## Conclusion

The 2018 *Waiting Your Turn* survey indicates that, at 19.8 weeks, the total waiting time for elective, medically necessary, treatment across the provinces is slightly lower than last year's 21.2-week wait time, which was the longest measured in the survey's history. Even if one debates the reliability of waiting-list data, this survey also reveals that wait times in Canada are longer than what physicians consider to be clinically reasonable.

From the standpoint of the Canadian economy, 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, Barua and Hasan (2018) estimated the cost of waiting per patient in Canada to be approximately \$1,822 in 2017 if only hours during the normal working week were considered “lost”, and as much as \$5,559 if all hours of the week (excluding eight hours of sleep per night) were considered “lost”.

Further, there is a significant body of medical literature identifying adverse medical consequences from prolonged waiting (Waiting Your Turn, 2009; Day, 2013).

This year's survey of specialists also found that an estimated 1.6% of patients received elective treatment in another country during 2017/18. Physicians also report that only about 12.1% of their patients are on a waiting list because they requested a delay or postponement, and that 43.9% would agree to have their procedure performed within a week [9] if an opening arose.

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

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9. The survey asks physicians 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”.

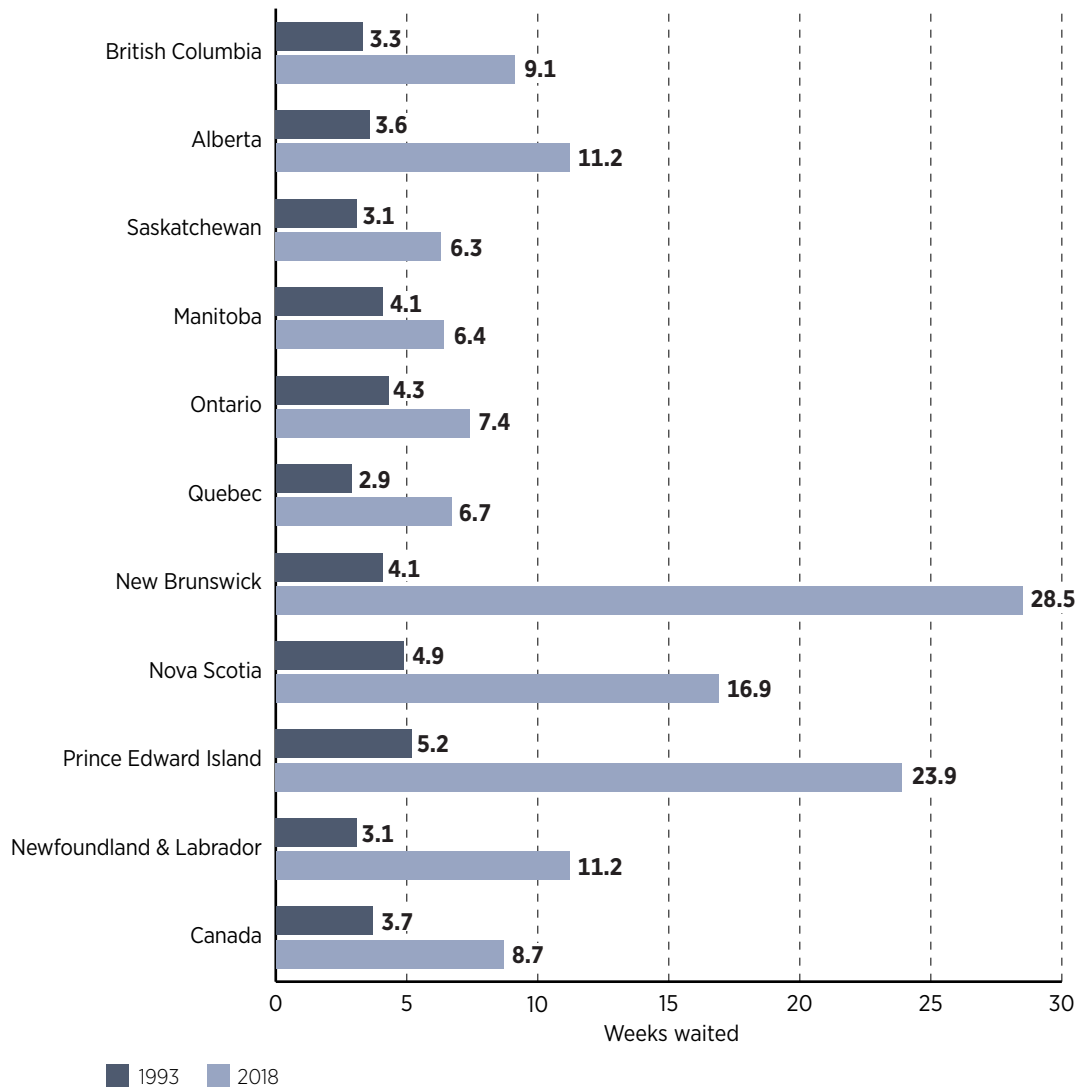
## Selected graphs

Graphs 1–6: Median actual waiting times, 1993 and 2018

Graphs 7–8: Median reasonable waiting times, 1994 and 2018

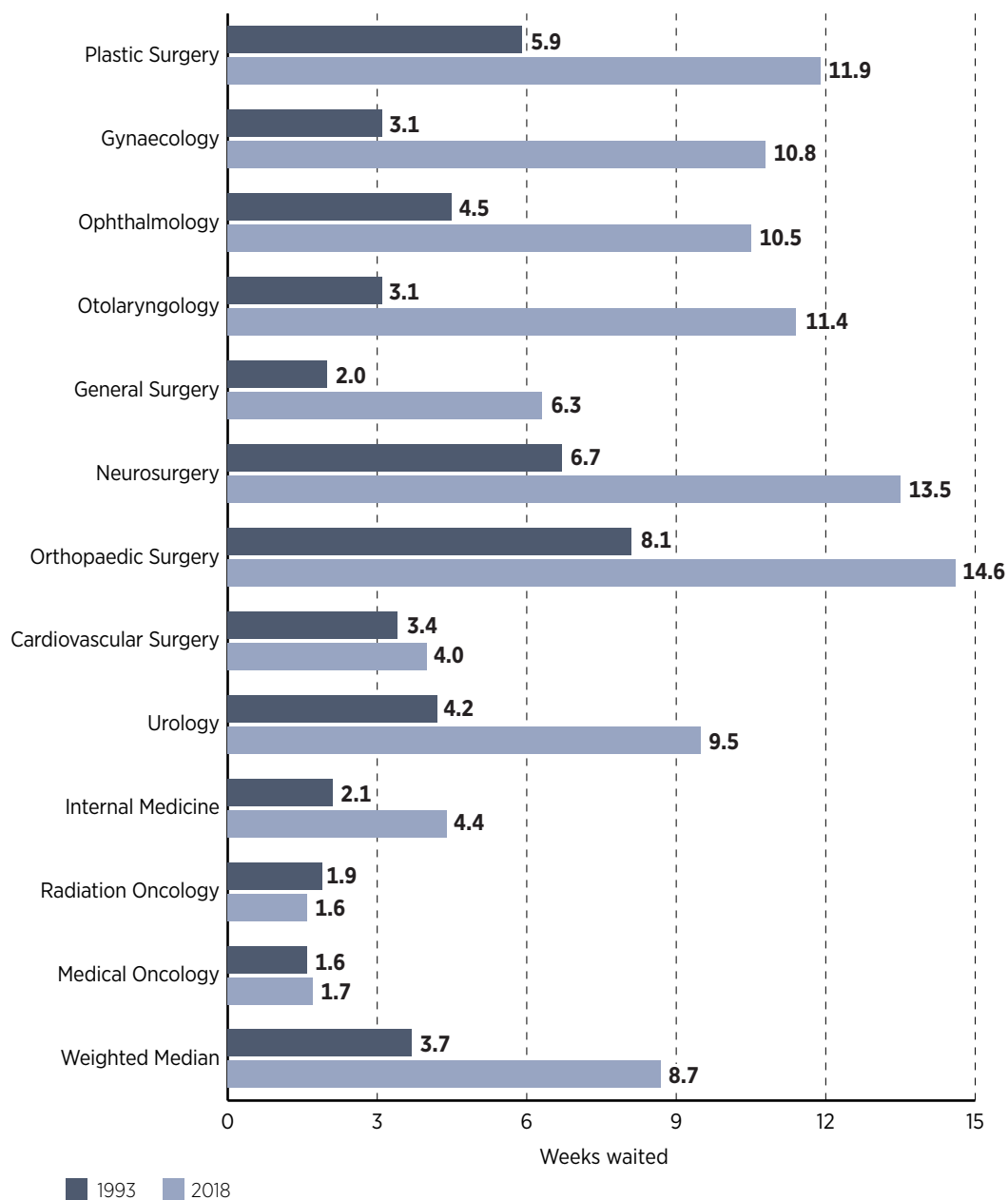
Graphs 9–19: Actual versus reasonable waiting times, 1994 to 2018, by province

**Graph 1: Median wait between referral by GP and appointment with specialist, by province, 1993 and 2018**



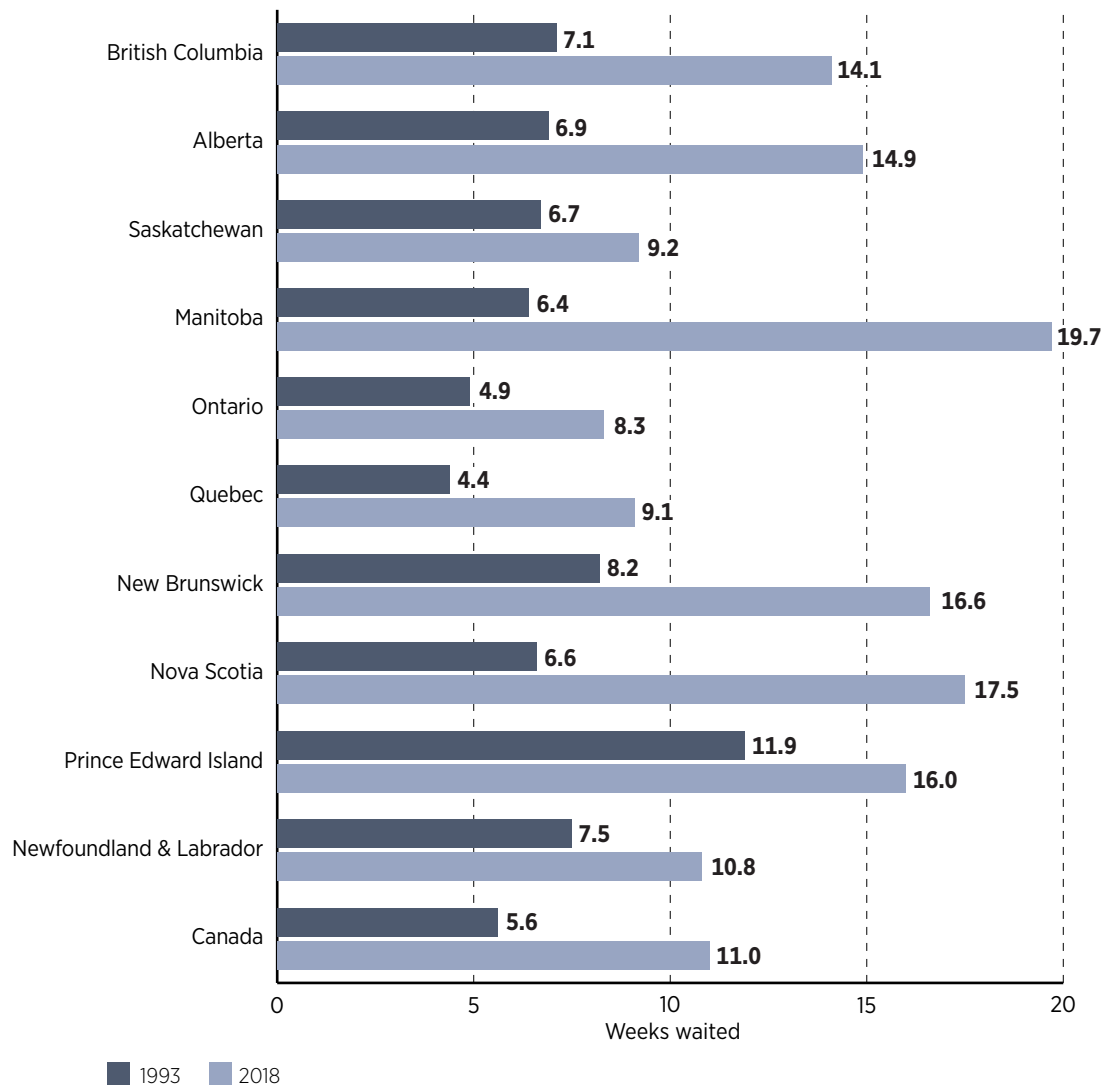
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2018; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

**Graph 2: Median wait between referral by GP and appointment with specialist, by specialty, 1993 and 2018**



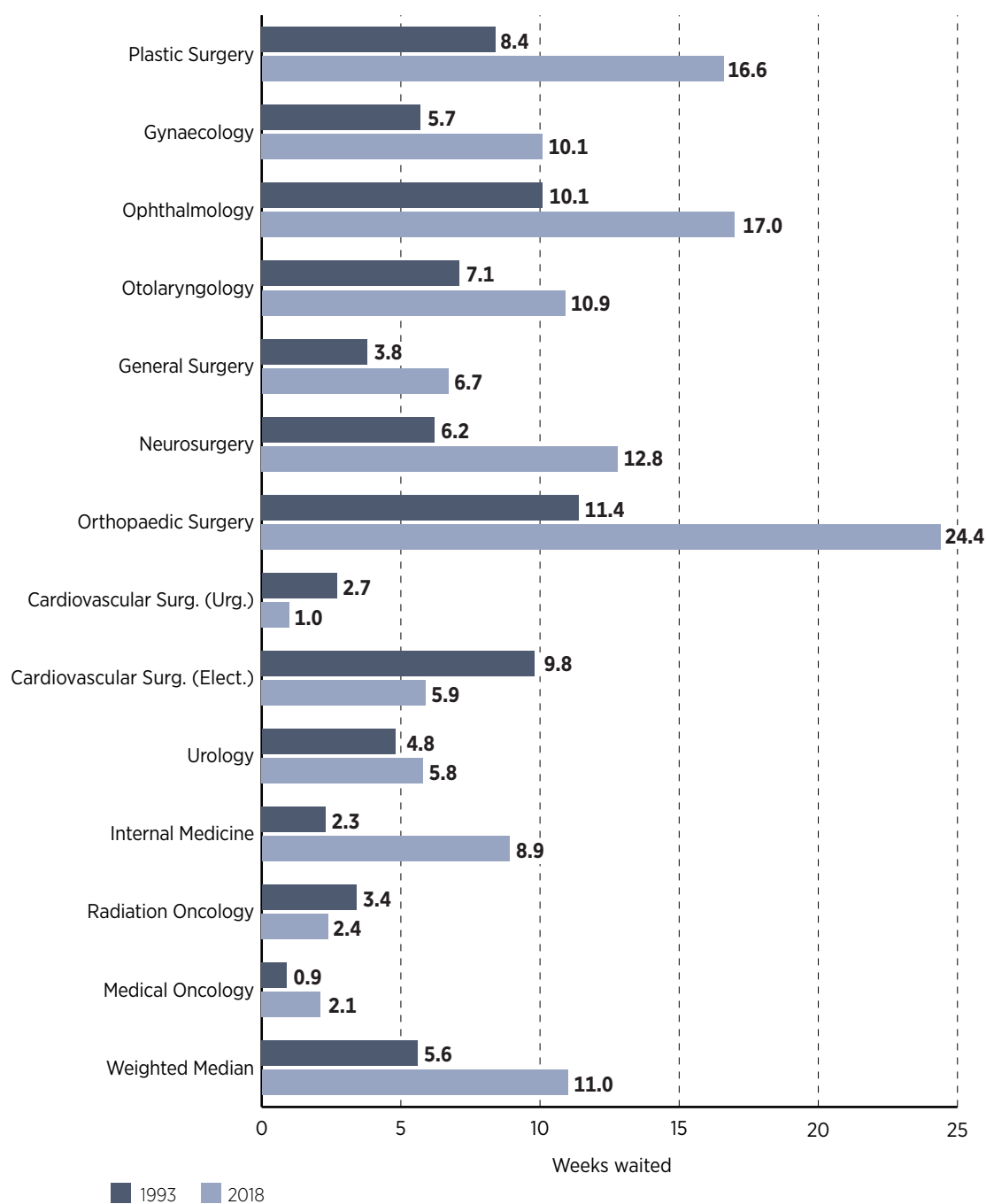
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2018; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

**Graph 3: Median wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by province, 1993 and 2018**



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2018; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

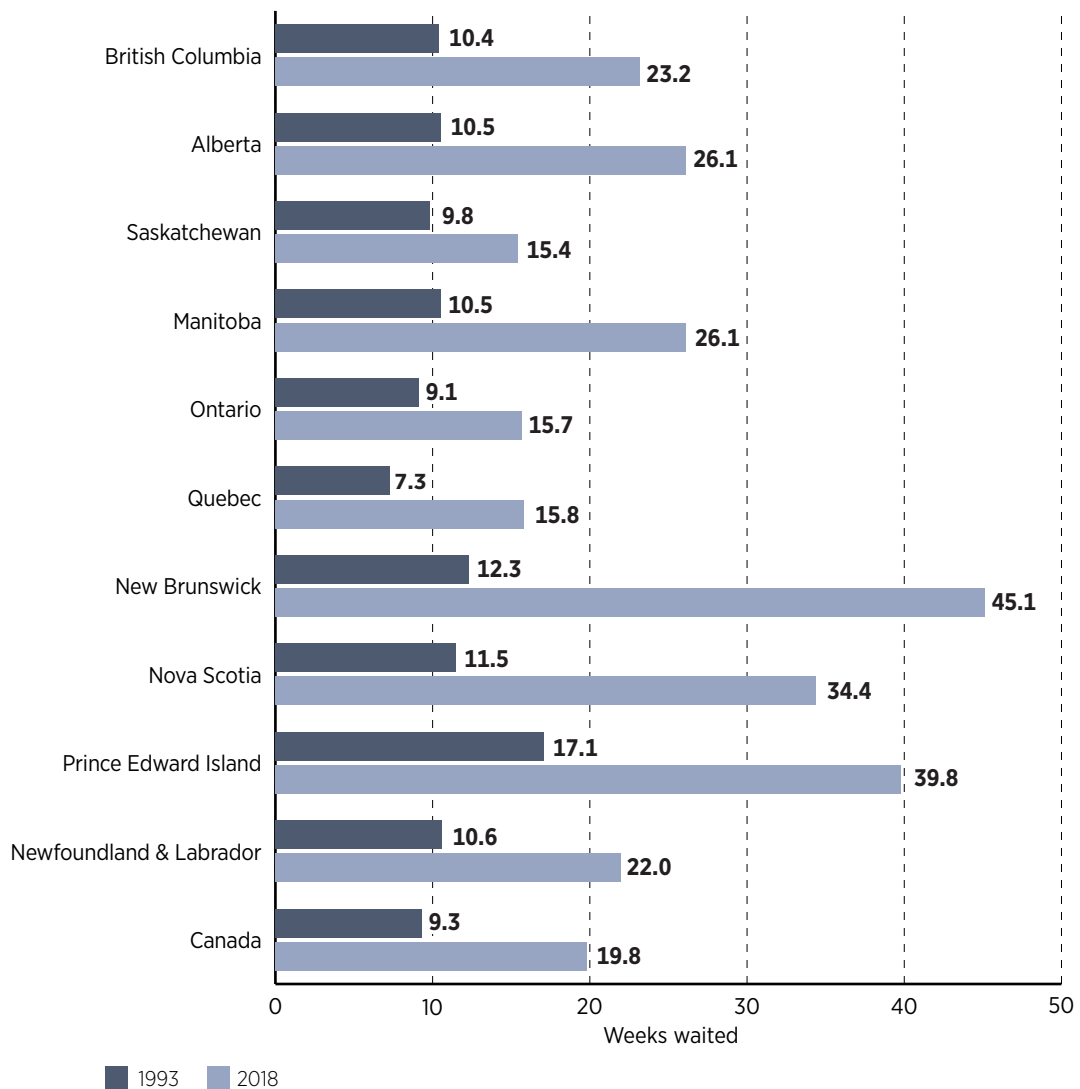
**Graph 4: Median wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by specialty, 1993 and 2018**



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2018; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

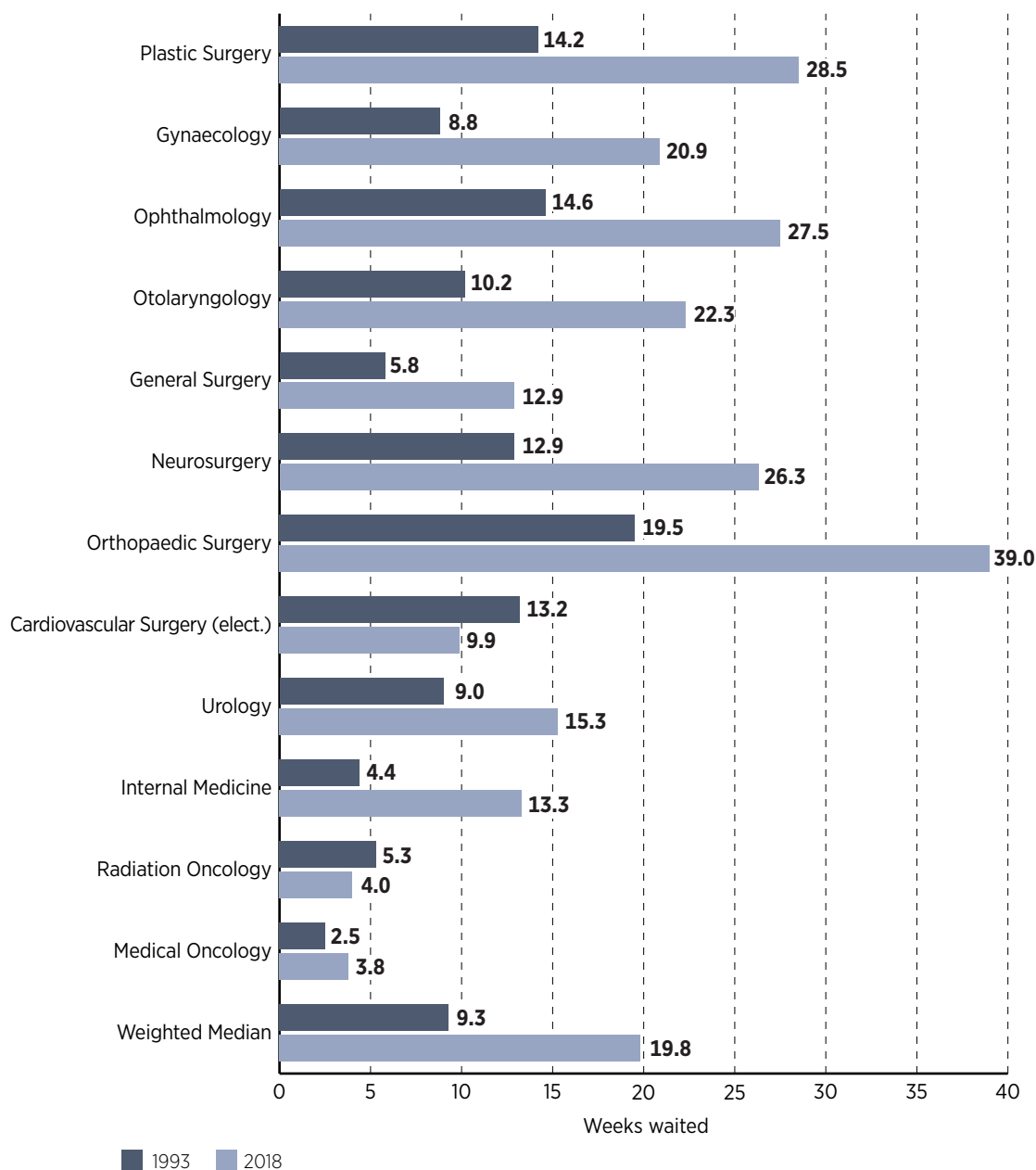


**Graph 5: Median wait between referral by GP and treatment, by province, 1993 and 2018**



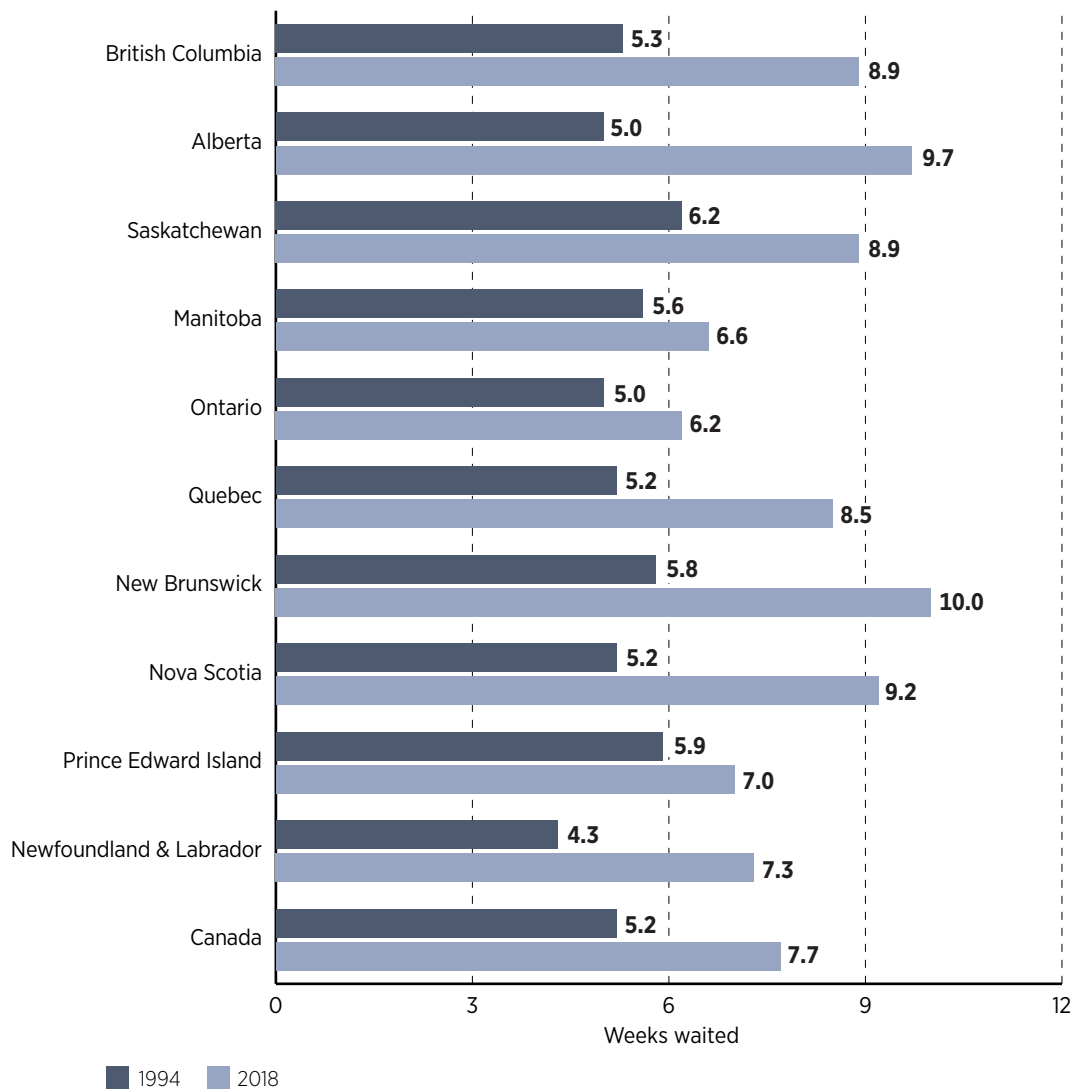
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2018; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

**Graph 6: Median wait between referral by GP and treatment, by specialty, 1993 and 2018**

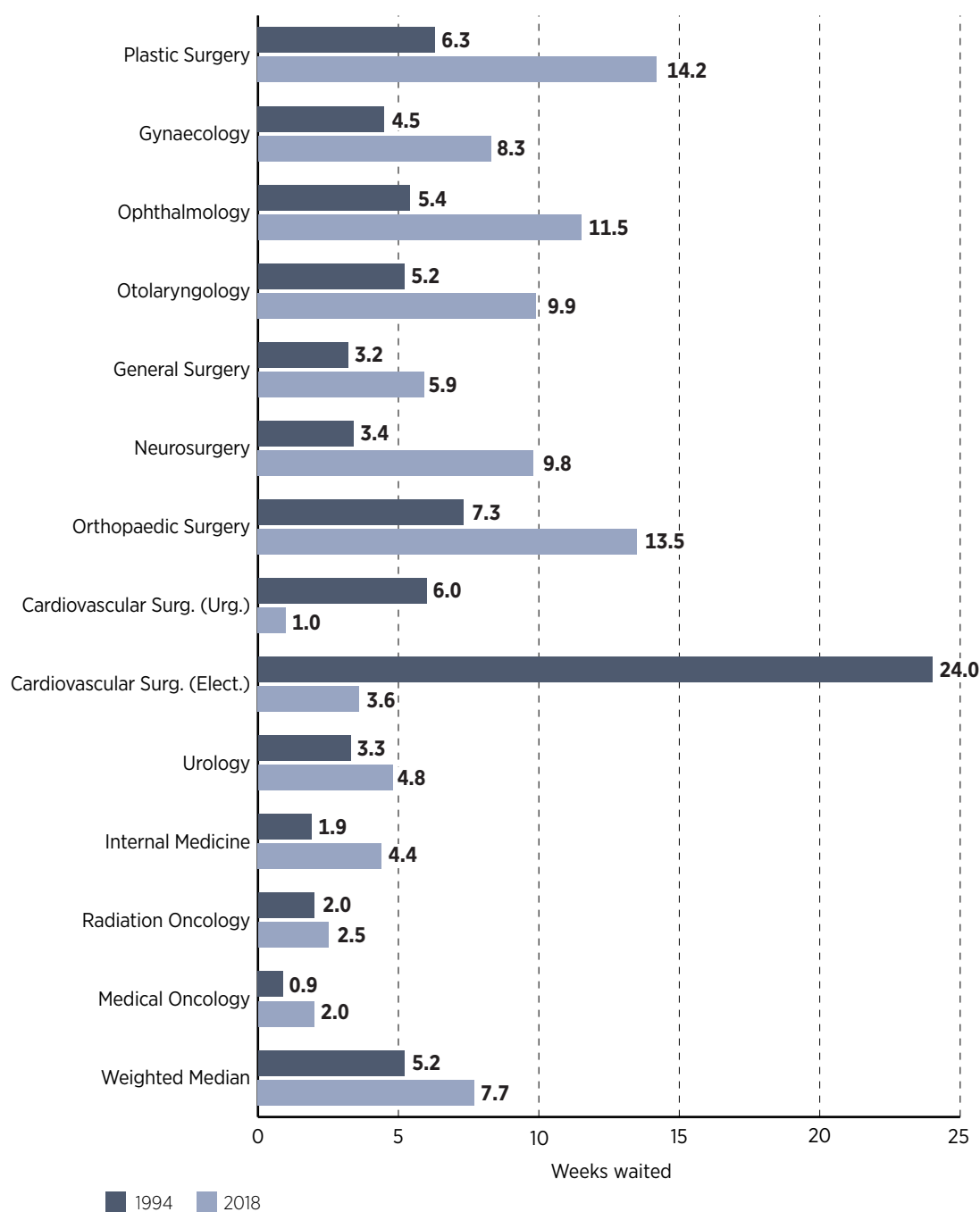


Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2018; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

**Graph 7: Median reasonable wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by province, 1994 and 2018**

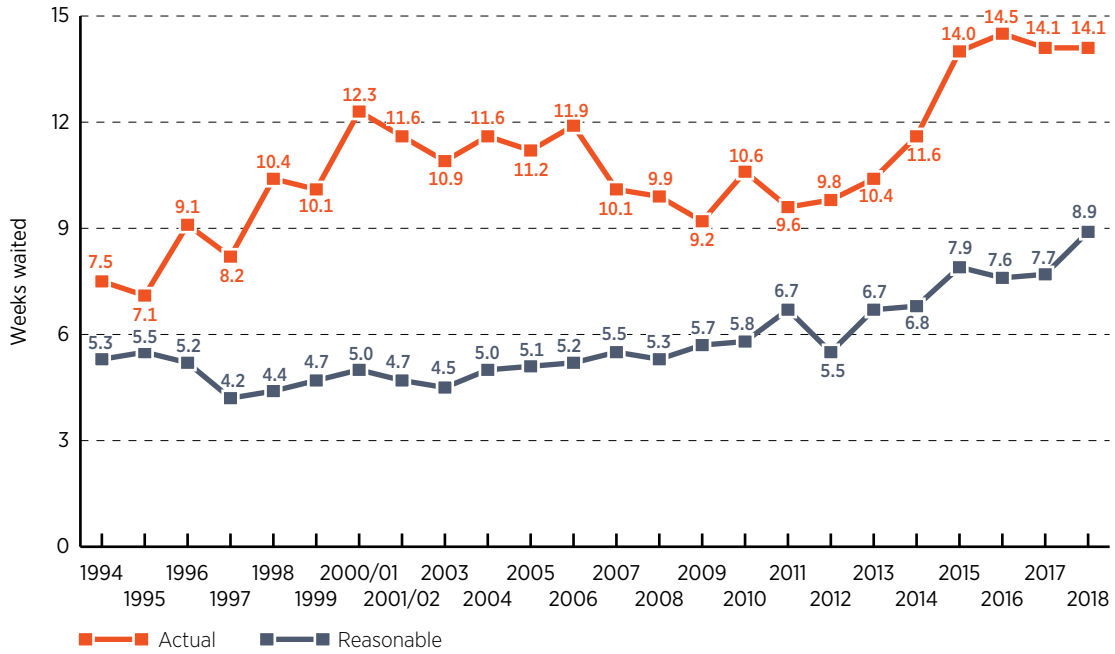


**Graph 8: Median reasonable wait between appointment with specialist and treatment, by specialty, 1994 and 2018**

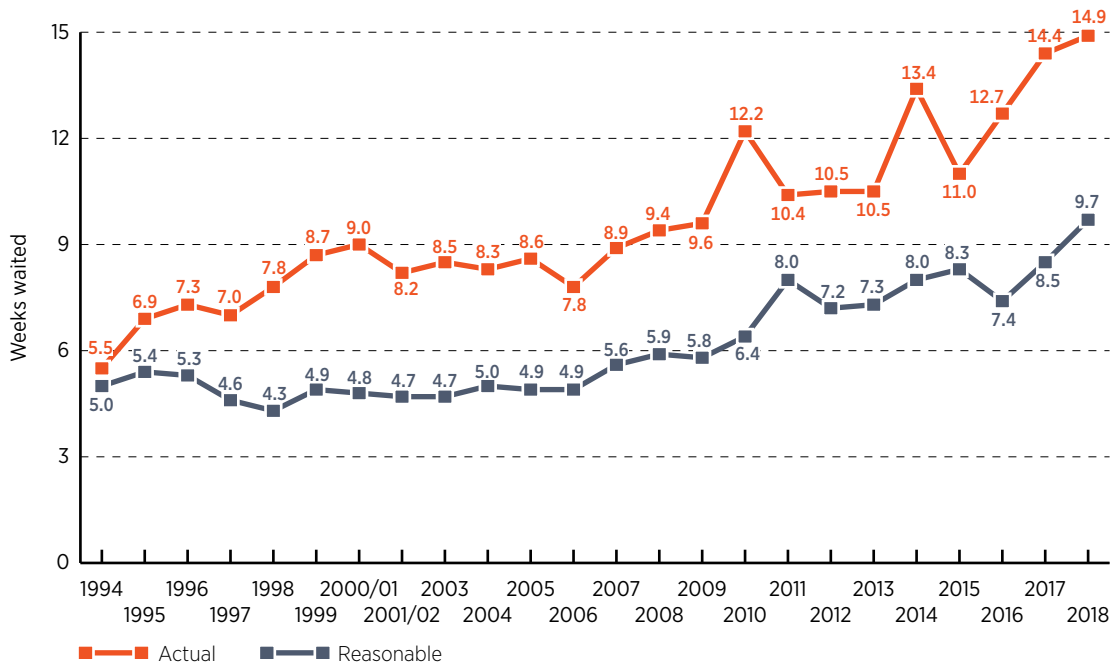


Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2018; *Waiting Your Turn*, 1997.

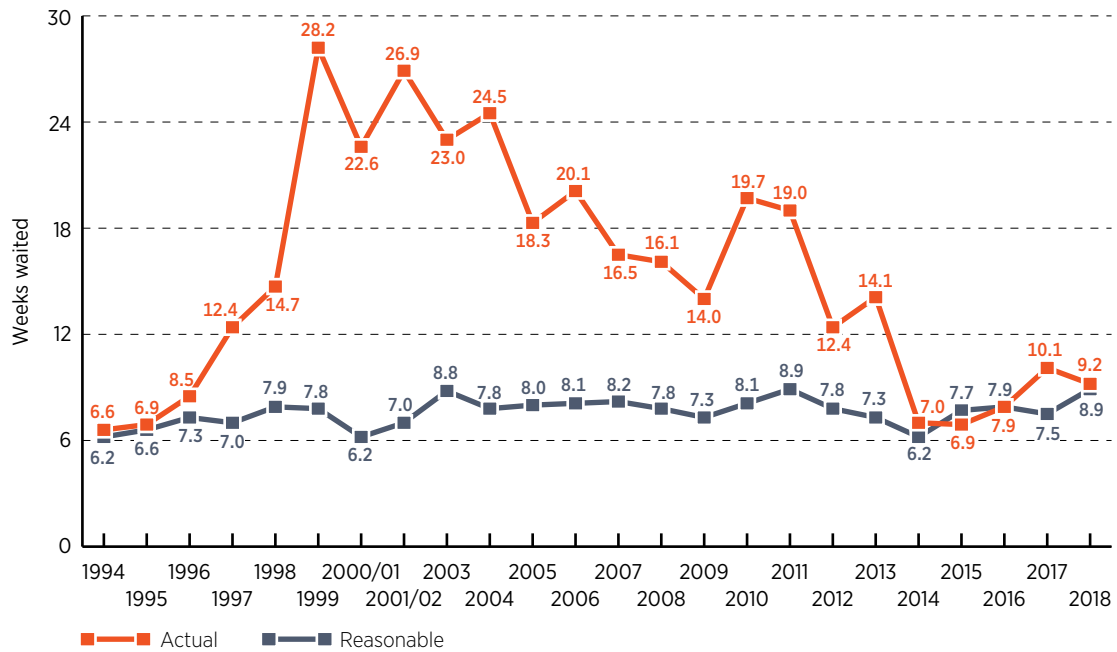
**Graph 9: British Columbia—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2018**



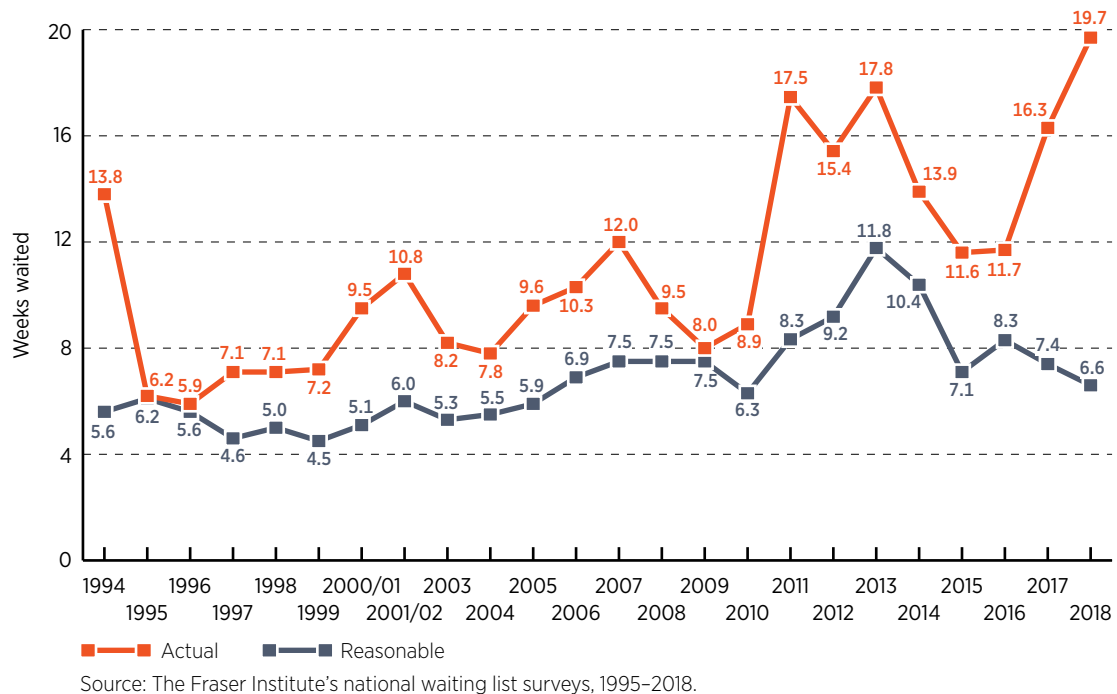
**Graph 10: Alberta—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2018**



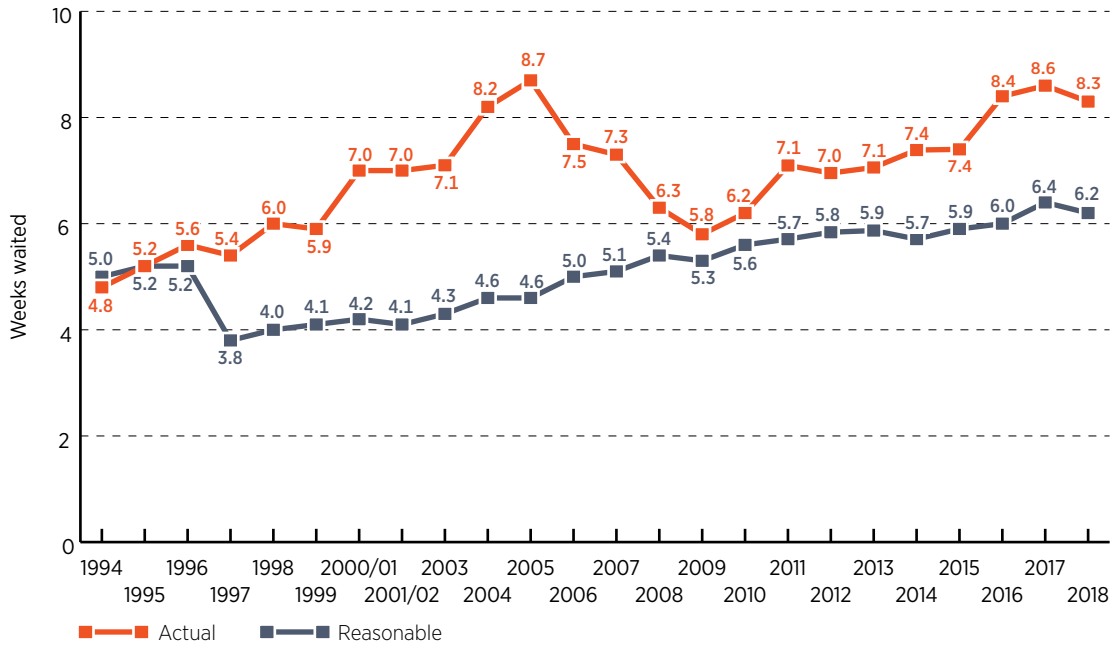
**Graph 11: Saskatchewan—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2018**



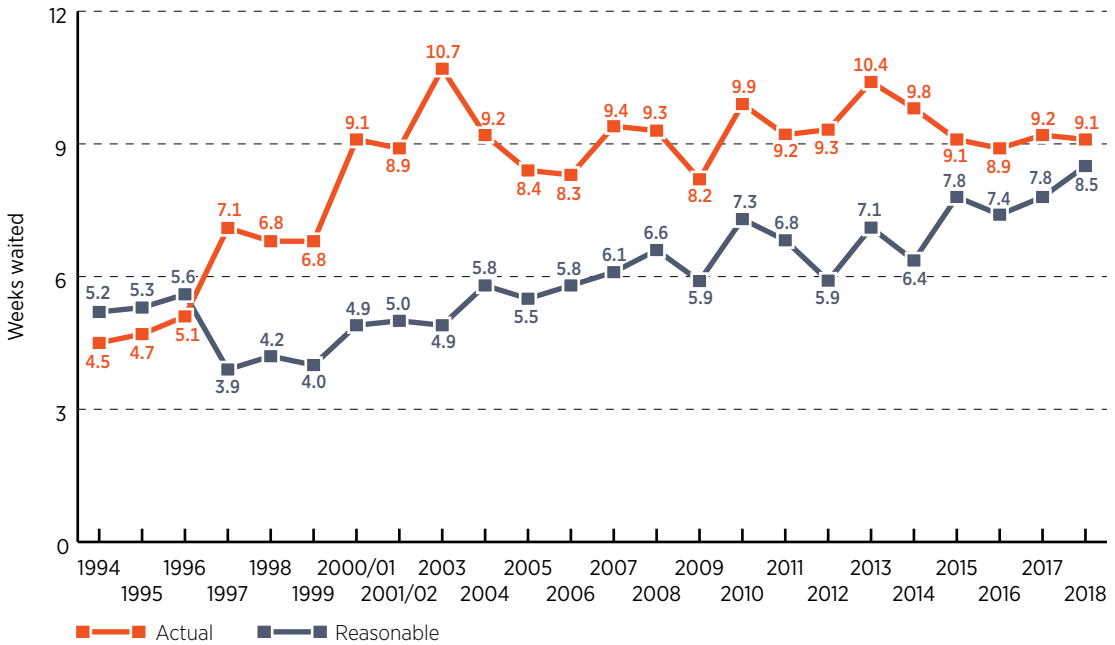
**Graph 12: Manitoba—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2018**



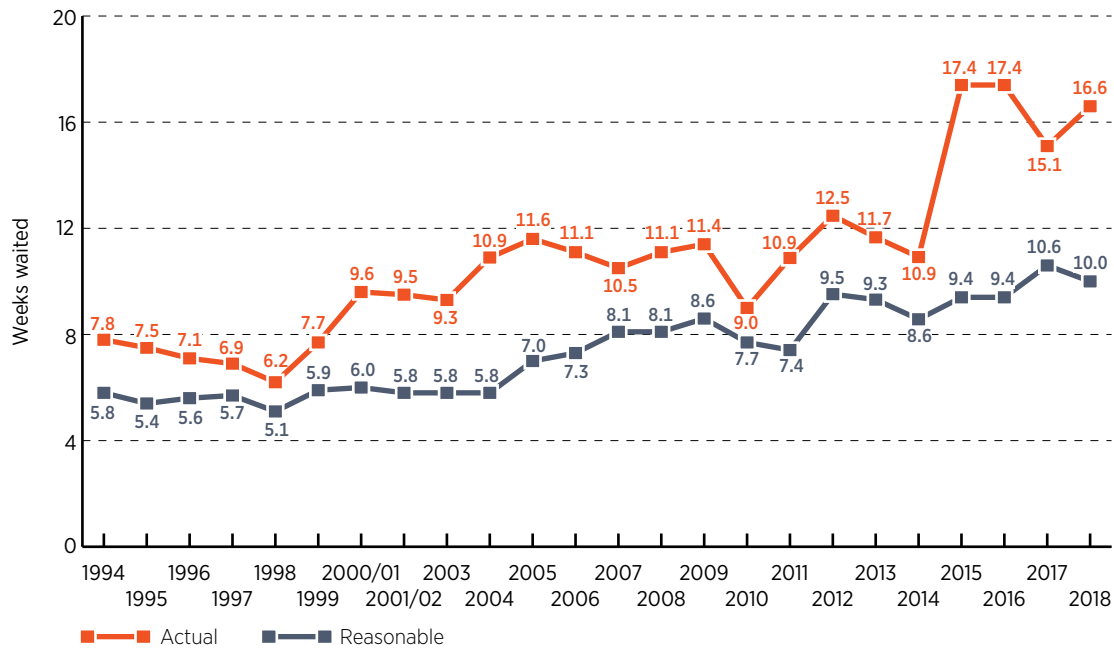
**Graph 13: Ontario—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2018**



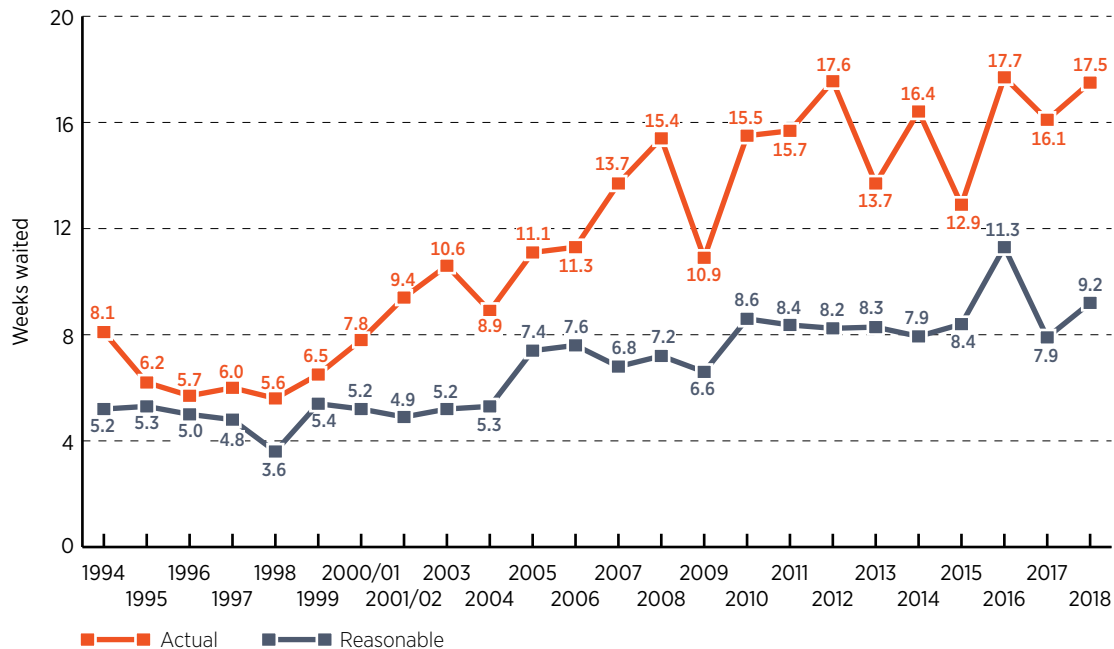
**Graph 14: Quebec—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2018**



**Graph 15: New Brunswick—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2018**

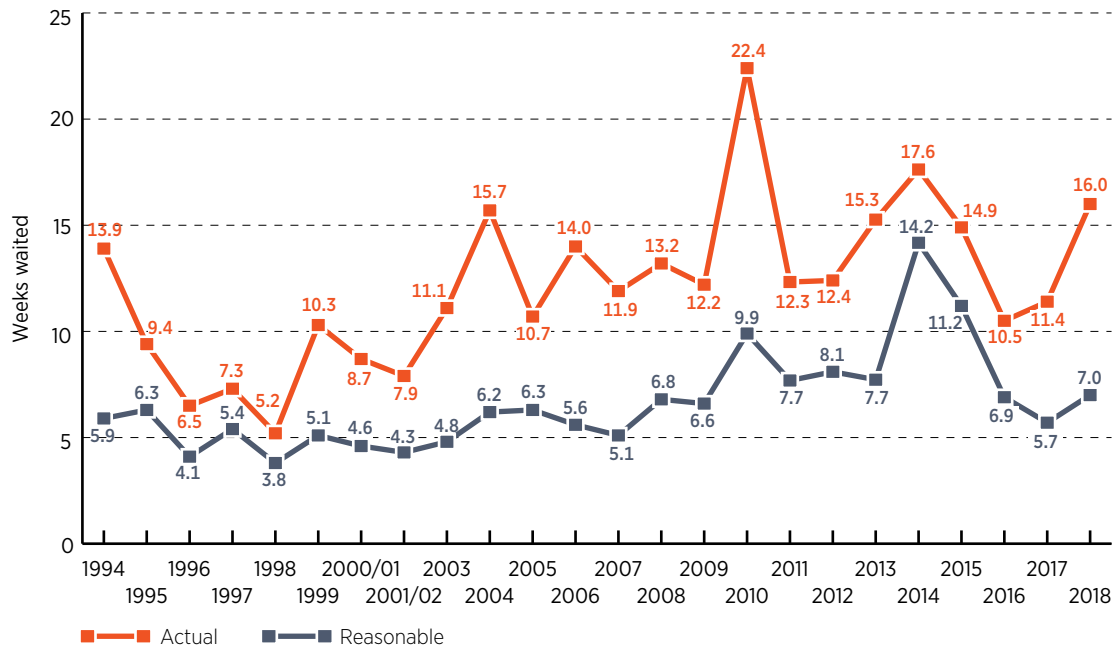


**Graph 16: Nova Scotia—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2018**



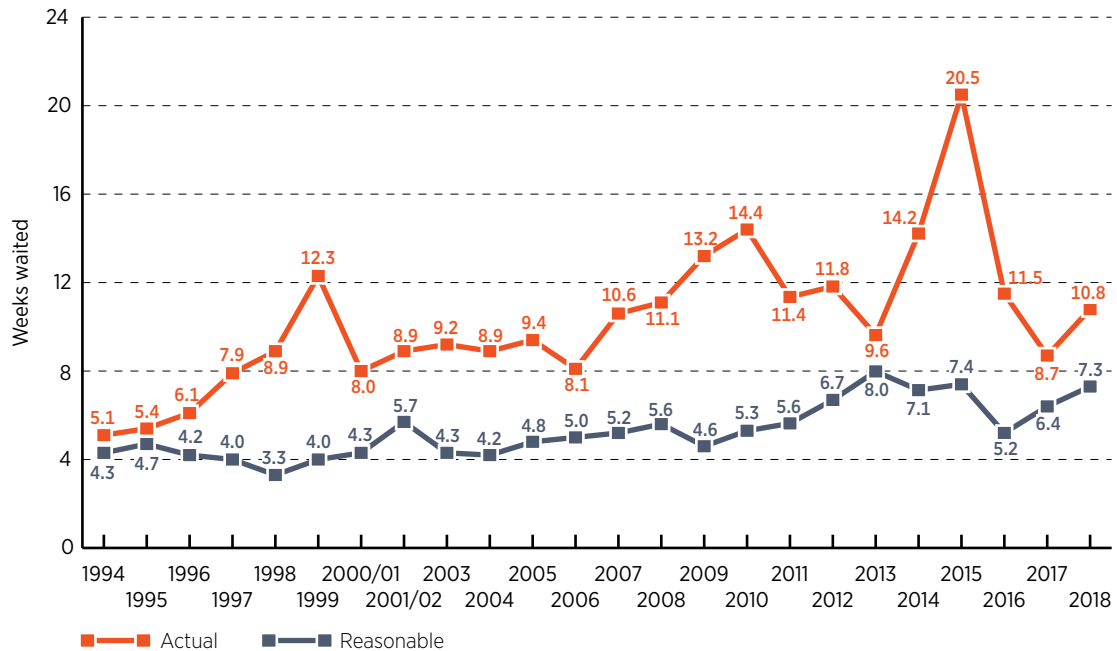


**Graph 17: Prince Edward Island—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2018**



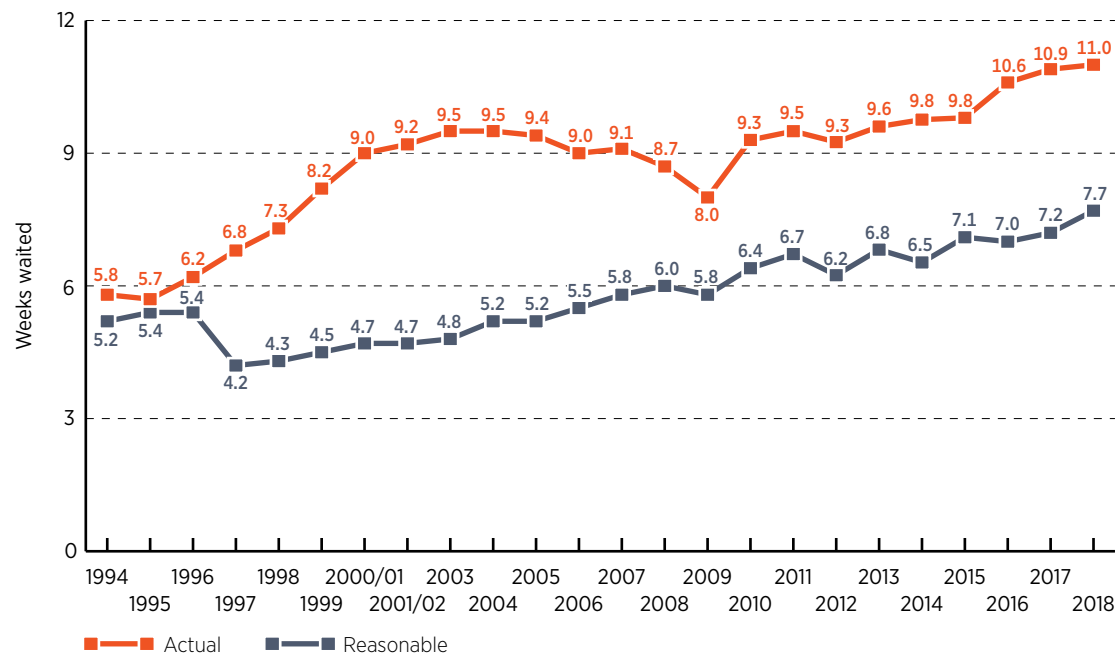
Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2018.

**Graph 18: Newfoundland & Labrador—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2018**



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2018.

**Graph 19: Canada—actual versus reasonable waits between appointment with specialist and treatment, 1994 to 2018**



Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list surveys, 1995–2018.

## Selected tables

**Tables 1A–1C** Summary of responses, 2018

**Table 2** Median total expected waiting time from referral by GP to treatment, by specialty, 2018 (in weeks)

**Table 3** Median patient wait to see a specialist after referral from a GP, by specialty, 2018 (in weeks)

**Table 4** Median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2018 (in weeks)

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**Table 6** Comparison of median weeks waited to receive treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2018 and 2017

**Table 7** Frequency distribution of waiting times (specialist to treatment) by province, 2018—proportion of survey waiting times that fall within given ranges

**Table 8** Median reasonable patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, 2018 (in weeks)

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**Table 11** Average percentage of patients receiving treatment outside Canada, 2018

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**Table 13A–13L** Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, 2018

**Table 14** Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist (2018)—procedures per 100,000 population

**Table 15** Comparison of estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2018 and 2017

**Table 16a** Acute inpatient procedures, 2016–2017

**Table 16b** Same day procedures, 2016–2017

**Table 1A: Summary of responses, 2018—response rates (percentages)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	46%	40%	44%	25%	21%	9%	31%	25%	100%	0%	26%
Gynaecology	44%	26%	42%	28%	21%	9%	27%	44%	50%	22%	22%
Ophthalmology	45%	43%	45%	33%	16%	13%	19%	34%	20%	27%	23%
Otolaryngology	43%	31%	50%	44%	26%	18%	55%	35%	0%	17%	27%
General Surgery	31%	27%	33%	10%	11%	6%	15%	19%	25%	4%	14%
Neurosurgery	44%	23%	50%	0%	14%	5%	0%	78%	—	0%	19%
Orthopaedic Surgery	28%	34%	30%	37%	17%	10%	44%	33%	—	24%	21%
Cardiovascular Surgery	24%	11%	13%	0%	9%	4%	13%	0%	—	20%	11%
Urology	39%	40%	20%	54%	24%	8%	40%	33%	—	0%	24%
Internal Medicine	21%	7%	7%	9%	4%	3%	17%	8%	33%	26%	7%
Radiation Oncology	4%	8%	10%	15%	6%	10%	0%	14%	0%	0%	7%
Medical Oncology	12%	7%	0%	0%	7%	13%	0%	7%	100%	0%	8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>24%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>26%</b>	<b>33%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>17%</b>

**Table 1B: Summary of responses, 2018—number of responses**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	30	18	4	3	34	8	4	3	1	0	105
Gynaecology	71	42	19	17	126	41	7	17	1	6	347
Ophthalmology	64	39	9	8	58	37	3	11	1	3	233
Otolaryngology	30	12	5	7	54	39	6	6	0	2	161
General Surgery	53	28	15	4	56	27	4	6	1	1	195
Neurosurgery	14	5	6	0	11	4	0	7	—	0	47
Orthopaedic Surgery	51	43	11	13	78	30	12	12	—	4	254
Cardiovascular Surgery	13	4	2	0	11	3	1	0	—	1	35
Urology	31	14	1	7	50	12	6	6	—	0	127
Internal Medicine	54	16	4	6	35	16	5	4	3	6	149
Radiation Oncology	3	4	1	2	11	11	0	2	0	0	34
Medical Oncology	9	3	0	0	14	3	0	1	1	0	31
<b>Total</b>	<b>423</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>538</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>1,718</b>

**Table 1C: Summary of responses, 2018—number of questionnaires mailed out**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	65	45	9	12	162	87	13	12	1	5	411
Gynaecology	162	161	45	61	598	446	26	39	2	27	1,567
Ophthalmology	143	90	20	24	358	293	16	32	5	11	992
Otolaryngology	70	39	10	16	210	212	11	17	1	12	598
General Surgery	173	104	45	42	520	436	27	31	4	24	1,406
Neurosurgery	32	22	12	7	78	74	6	9	—	3	243
Orthopaedic Surgery	181	125	37	35	466	315	27	36	—	17	1,239
Cardiovascular Surgery	54	36	15	6	116	76	8	12	—	5	328
Urology	79	35	5	13	212	144	15	18	—	3	524
Internal Medicine	253	214	56	66	835	506	29	52	9	23	2,043
Radiation Oncology	74	52	10	13	191	113	6	14	1	9	483
Medical Oncology	77	46	3	11	188	24	2	15	1	8	375
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,363</b>	<b>969</b>	<b>267</b>	<b>306</b>	<b>3,934</b>	<b>2,726</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>287</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>10,209</b>

**Table 2: Median total expected waiting time from referral by GP to treatment, by specialty, 2018 (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	48.6	32.3	—	16.5	19.1	17.3	36.2	146.0	—	—	28.5
Gynaecology	18.9	20.4	12.6	13.6	19.4	15.6	66.1	23.0	96.5	37.3	20.9
Ophthalmology	31.6	26.9	20.3	39.8	28.9	18.8	59.2	33.8	93.2	35.6	27.5
Otolaryngology	27.0	40.4	26.8	27.7	18.2	12.3	90.6	33.8	—	16.1	22.3
General Surgery	15.2	16.8	6.3	17.4	9.5	11.1	10.5	38.2	5.2	11.9	12.9
Neurosurgery	25.9	32.9	22.6	—	21.1	33.9	—	32.0	—	—	26.3
Orthopaedic Surgery	57.2	55.3	47.3	54.2	29.7	23.8	64.2	72.2	—	39.5	39.0
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elec.)	13.9	24.9	4.6	—	8.3	5.5	32.0	—	—	16.9	9.9
Urology	19.1	31.0	3.0	10.0	10.7	21.0	39.5	18.4	—	—	15.3
Internal Medicine	15.7	15.7	8.8	22.8	10.9	8.5	10.7	13.7	20.0	19.7	13.3
Radiation Oncology	9.4	5.5	3.2	2.0	3.5	4.0	—	4.7	—	—	4.0
Medical Oncology	6.0	4.8	—	—	3.2	3.6	—	9.0	4.0	—	3.8
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>23.2</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>15.4</b>	<b>26.1</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>45.1</b>	<b>34.4</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>19.8</b>

\* Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals as a result of rounding.

**Table 3: Median patient wait to see a specialist after referral from a GP, by specialty, 2018 (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	25.0	13.0	—	6.0	8.0	4.0	9.0	77.0	2.0	—	11.9
Gynaecology	9.5	10.0	4.0	6.0	10.0	6.0	52.0	12.0	72.0	18.0	10.8
Ophthalmology	8.0	8.0	8.0	4.0	12.0	8.0	42.0	16.0	52.0	24.0	10.5
Otolaryngology	12.0	20.0	11.0	10.0	8.5	6.0	79.0	24.0	—	5.5	11.4
General Surgery	7.6	8.0	2.3	8.0	5.0	4.0	5.0	20.0	2.0	4.5	6.3
Neurosurgery	14.0	12.0	11.0	—	10.0	20.0	—	24.0	—	—	13.5
Orthopaedic Surgery	15.0	26.0	23.0	12.0	12.0	8.0	25.5	30.5	—	16.0	14.6
Cardiovascular Surgery	9.0	6.3	0.6	—	3.5	1.0	12.0	—	—	5.5	4.0
Urology	12.0	18.0	1.5	4.0	7.0	12.0	29.0	9.0	—	—	9.5
Internal Medicine	5.0	4.0	2.0	3.3	4.1	4.0	1.0	5.0	18.0	12.0	4.4
Radiation Oncology	3.0	2.5	1.0	1.0	1.5	1.5	—	2.0	—	—	1.6
Medical Oncology	3.0	1.5	—	—	1.5	1.5	—	4.0	2.0	—	1.7
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>23.9</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>8.7</b>

**Table 4: Median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2018 (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	23.6	19.3	26.7	10.5	11.1	13.3	27.2	69.0	—	—	16.6
Gynaecology	9.4	10.4	8.6	7.6	9.4	9.6	14.1	11.0	24.5	19.3	10.1
Ophthalmology	23.6	18.9	12.3	35.8	16.9	10.8	17.2	17.8	41.2	11.6	17.0
Otolaryngology	15.0	20.4	15.8	17.7	9.7	6.3	11.6	9.8	—	10.6	10.9
General Surgery	7.6	8.8	4.1	9.4	4.5	7.1	5.5	18.2	3.2	7.4	6.7
Neurosurgery	11.9	20.9	11.6	—	11.1	13.9	—	8.0	—	—	12.8
Orthopaedic Surgery	42.2	29.3	24.3	42.2	17.7	15.8	38.7	41.7	—	23.5	24.4
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urg.)	2.8	3.0	0.4	—	0.5	0.3	1.0	—	—	1.9	1.0
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elec.)	4.9	18.7	4.0	—	4.8	4.5	20.0	—	—	11.4	5.9
Urology	7.1	13.0	1.5	6.0	3.7	9.0	10.5	9.4	—	—	5.8
Internal Medicine	10.7	11.7	6.8	19.6	6.8	4.5	9.7	8.7	2.0	7.7	8.9
Radiation Oncology	6.4	3.0	2.2	1.0	2.0	2.5	—	2.7	—	—	2.4
Medical Oncology	3.0	3.3	—	—	1.7	2.1	—	5.0	2.0	—	2.1
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.0</b>

**Table 5A: Plastic surgery (2018)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	27.0	24.0	—	—	16.0	20.8	40.0	48.0	—	—
Neurolysis	12.5	12.0	5.0	—	7.0	12.0	12.0	46.0	—	—
Blepharoplasty	23.5	13.0	—	6.0	5.5	4.0	23.0	48.0	—	—
Rhinoplasty	36.5	18.0	—	21.0	8.0	4.0	22.0	48.0	—	—
Scar Revision	20.0	18.0	38.0	6.0	8.0	4.0	20.0	91.0	—	—
Hand Surgery	16.0	17.0	28.0	—	10.0	14.0	9.0	104.0	—	—
Craniofacial Procedures	16.0	11.5	14.0	9.5	6.5	40.0	—	7.0	—	—
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	5.0	3.5	5.0	—	4.0	4.0	3.0	3.5	—	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>19.3</b>	<b>26.7</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>13.3</b>	<b>27.2</b>	<b>69.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

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

**Table 5B: Gynaecology (2018)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	6.0	6.0	7.0	7.0	6.0	1.5	8.5	7.4	16.0	18.0
Tubal Ligation	10.0	13.4	9.3	8.0	10.0	14.0	16.0	12.0	28.0	22.0
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	12.0	12.0	10.5	8.0	12.0	12.0	18.0	12.0	28.0	13.0
Vaginal Repair	12.0	14.0	11.3	8.0	12.0	16.0	18.0	12.0	28.0	16.0
Tuboplasty	7.0	15.4	10.5	6.5	10.0	18.0	4.0	10.0	28.0	32.0
Laparoscopic Procedures	12.0	12.0	10.5	8.0	10.0	9.0	16.0	12.0	28.0	17.0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	10.0	11.0	6.0	7.5	10.0	8.0	13.0	12.0	28.0	22.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>10.4</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>9.6</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>24.5</b>	<b>19.3</b>

**Table 5C: Ophthalmology (2018)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	28.0	24.5	12.0	44.5	20.0	12.0	15.0	20.0	42.0	12.0
Cornea Transplant	27.0	25.0	60.0	44.5	46.0	21.0	108.0	—	—	—
Cornea - Pterygium	20.0	12.0	14.0	12.0	8.0	7.0	28.0	18.0	42.0	38.0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	10.0	12.0	8.0	16.0	8.0	6.0	56.0	12.0	—	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	7.0	2.5	—	13.0	3.0	2.5	24.0	8.0	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	8.0	18.0	12.0	22.0	8.0	12.0	34.0	29.0	—	6.0
Strabismus	24.0	25.0	24.0	24.0	20.0	25.0	52.0	26.0	—	2.3
Operations on Eyelids	8.0	12.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	8.0	60.0	34.0	4.0	5.5
Glaucoma	6.0	12.0	12.0	4.1	5.0	6.0	48.0	32.0	—	2.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>23.6</b>	<b>18.9</b>	<b>12.3</b>	<b>35.8</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>17.2</b>	<b>17.8</b>	<b>41.2</b>	<b>11.6</b>

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

**Table 5D: Otolaryngology (2018)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	11.0	10.0	3.5	10.0	6.0	4.0	9.0	4.0	—	7.0
Tympanoplasty	24.0	25.0	32.0	14.0	8.0	8.0	16.0	6.0	—	11.0
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	8.0	12.0	10.0	19.0	8.0	6.0	11.0	5.0	—	4.0
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	12.0	26.5	22.0	20.0	12.0	8.0	12.0	16.0	—	20.0
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	22.0	28.0	22.0	20.0	12.0	9.5	16.0	16.0	—	12.0
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	20.0	24.0	22.0	20.0	12.0	8.0	16.0	16.0	—	12.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>15.0</b>	<b>20.4</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10.6</b>



**Table 5E: General surgery (2018)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	12.0	12.0	5.3	19.0	6.0	10.0	6.0	20.0	4.0	16.0
Cholecystectomy	12.0	12.0	5.0	8.0	6.0	8.0	6.0	20.0	2.0	16.0
Colonoscopy	12.0	12.0	3.5	12.0	4.5	8.0	8.0	48.0	6.0	10.0
Intestinal Operations	4.0	6.0	4.0	6.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	2.0	3.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	12.0	12.0	4.8	7.0	7.3	12.0	12.0	20.0	6.0	16.0
Breast Biopsy	2.3	4.3	3.0	0.2	2.0	3.0	4.0	2.0	6.0	—
Mastectomy	3.0	2.5	3.0	3.0	2.5	3.5	4.0	2.5	2.0	2.5
Bronchus and Lung	8.0	—	4.0	—	3.0	7.0	—	8.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	12.0	3.5	3.0	—	4.0	4.5	4.0	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	20.0	12.0	5.0	—	7.5	14.0	—	—	6.0	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>8.8</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>18.2</b>	<b>3.2</b>	<b>7.4</b>

**Table 5F: Neurosurgery (2018)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Neurolisis	6.0	17.0	24.0	—	13.0	4.0	—	5.5	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	20.0	24.0	12.0	—	8.0	17.0	—	12.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	5.0	20.0	9.5	—	12.0	16.0	—	7.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	8.0	—	7.0	—	22.0	—	—	2.1	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	16.0	—	2.0	—	—	—	—	2.0	—	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>11.9</b>	<b>20.9</b>	<b>11.6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>13.9</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

**Table 5G: Orthopaedic surgery (2018)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	22.5	16.0	12.0	17.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	14.0	—	12.0
Removal of Pins	23.0	12.0	12.0	16.0	8.5	15.0	12.0	19.0	—	12.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	45.0	38.0	31.0	49.0	20.0	17.0	46.0	52.0	—	24.0
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	48.0	20.0	18.0	42.0	12.0	15.0	26.0	16.0	—	12.0
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	45.0	17.0	16.0	20.0	12.0	16.0	26.0	24.0	—	16.0
Digit Neuroma	46.0	18.0	6.0	24.0	9.5	18.0	43.0	40.0	—	24.0
Rotator Cuff Repair	41.0	19.0	15.0	18.0	12.0	12.0	26.0	20.0	—	18.0
Ostectomy (All Types)	56.0	19.0	12.0	22.0	12.0	13.0	19.0	52.0	—	—
Routine Spinal Instability	50.0	28.0	32.0	100.0	38.0	17.0	50.0	8.0	—	52.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>24.3</b>	<b>42.2</b>	<b>17.7</b>	<b>15.8</b>	<b>38.7</b>	<b>41.7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>23.5</b>

**Table 5H: Cardiovascular surgery (2018)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

	Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Emergent	Coronary Artery Bypass	1.0	0.5	0.1	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	1.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	0.5	1.0	0.1	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	1.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	1.0	0.1	0.1	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	0.5
	Carotid Endarterectomy	1.0	—	—	—	0.0	0.0	—	—	—	0.5
	Pacemaker Operations	0.5	—	—	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	—
	<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	2.0	4.5	0.4	—	0.8	0.4	1.0	—	—	2.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	3.0	2.0	0.4	—	0.8	0.4	1.0	—	—	2.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	2.0	0.5	0.4	—	0.3	0.0	1.0	—	—	2.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	2.5	—	—	—	0.6	0.1	—	—	—	0.5
	Pacemaker Operations	3.0	—	—	—	0.1	0.2	1.0	—	—	—
	<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	6.0	17.0	4.0	—	8.0	4.5	20.0	—	—	12.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	4.5	20.0	4.0	—	4.0	4.5	20.0	—	—	12.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	6.0	9.0	—	—	6.0	5.0	20.0	—	—	4.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	6.0	—	—	—	4.5	5.0	—	—	—	2.0
	Pacemaker Operations	4.5	—	4.0	—	3.0	—	—	—	—	—
	<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>18.7</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>11.4</b>

**Table 5I: Urology (2018)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	10.0	12.0	—	3.0	5.0	16.0	14.0	12.0	—	—
Radical Prostatectomy	7.0	10.0	—	6.0	5.0	8.0	8.5	10.0	—	—
Transurethral Resection - Bladder	4.0	4.0	—	3.5	4.0	4.0	6.5	4.0	—	—
Radical Cystectomy	7.0	7.0	—	3.5	4.5	6.0	5.5	5.0	—	—
Cystoscopy	6.5	14.0	1.5	7.0	3.0	6.8	7.5	10.5	—	—
Hernia/Hydrocele	12.0	18.0	—	8.0	8.0	14.0	24.0	12.0	—	—
Bladder Fulguration	7.0	10.0	—	4.5	4.0	6.0	8.0	4.0	—	—
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	6.0	35.0	—	3.0	8.0	11.0	30.0	6.0	—	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>13.0</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>9.0</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>9.4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

**Table 5J: Internal medicine (2018)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	12.0	13.0	8.0	24.0	8.0	6.0	16.0	10.0	—	7.0
Angiography/ Angioplasty	7.0	5.5	3.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	6.0	—	11.0
Bronchoscopy	4.3	4.0	—	4.0	4.0	4.0	12.0	3.0	2.0	5.0
Gastroscopy	10.0	18.0	4.0	10.0	6.0	6.0	12.0	3.5	2.0	4.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>19.6</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>7.7</b>

**Table 5K: Radiation oncology (2018)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	4.0	2.5	1.0	—	2.0	2.0	—	2.5	—	—
Cancer of the Cervix	3.5	3.0	1.0	2.5	2.0	2.0	—	2.5	—	—
Lung Cancer	3.0	2.0	1.5	0.5	2.0	2.0	—	2.3	—	—
Prostate Cancer	11.0	4.0	3.0	1.5	2.0	3.0	—	3.0	—	—
Breast Cancer	6.0	3.0	2.5	1.0	2.0	3.0	—	3.0	—	—
Early Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	2.0	—	1.3	1.0	0.2	—	1.8	—	—
Late Side Effects from Treatment	4.0	2.0	—	9.5	1.0	1.0	—	1.8	—	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>6.4</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.2</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

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

**Table 5L: Medical oncology (2018)—median patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	2.5	3.0	—	—	1.8	2.5	—	—	2.0	—
Cancer of the Cervix	2.0	3.0	—	—	1.5	2.5	—	—	2.0	—
Lung Cancer	3.0	3.0	—	—	1.5	2.0	—	—	2.0	—
Breast Cancer	3.0	3.5	—	—	2.0	2.3	—	5.0	2.0	—
Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	0.0	—	—	0.5	0.5	—	1.0	0.1	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>—</b>

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

**Table 6: Comparison of median weeks waited to receive treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2018 and 2017**

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg
Plastic Surgery	23.6	22.8	3%	19.3	7.3	165%	26.7	20.6	30%	10.5	15.5	-32%	11.1	10.7	4%
Gynaecology	9.4	8.7	7%	10.4	14.1	-26%	8.6	9.8	-12%	7.6	9.3	-18%	9.4	8.6	9%
Ophthalmology	23.6	26.7	-12%	18.9	15.6	21%	12.3	7.1	72%	35.8	31.3	14%	16.9	19.1	-12%
Otolaryngology	15.0	20.1	-25%	20.4	18.8	8%	15.8	22.9	-31%	17.7	24.0	-26%	9.7	7.8	24%
General Surgery	7.6	6.8	12%	8.8	12.6	-30%	4.1	8.5	-52%	9.4	11.0	-15%	4.5	4.6	-2%
Neurosurgery	11.9	16.7	-29%	20.9	15.8	33%	11.6	12.3	-6%	—	3.7	—	11.1	10.3	7%
Orthopaedic Surgery	42.2	38.1	11%	29.3	21.0	39%	24.3	20.8	17%	42.2	29.8	42%	17.7	19.9	-11%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	2.8	2.3	19%	3.0	1.7	79%	0.4	1.2	-71%	—	0.5	—	0.5	1.3	-62%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	4.9	8.1	-39%	18.7	7.9	137%	4.0	2.2	81%	—	5.0	—	4.8	4.4	9%
Urology	7.1	7.3	-3%	13.0	8.5	53%	1.5	2.7	-44%	6.0	8.2	-28%	3.7	4.7	-22%
Internal Medicine	10.7	9.3	16%	11.7	19.0	-38%	6.8	11.8	-42%	19.6	9.4	108%	6.8	4.0	70%
Radiation Oncology	6.4	7.0	-8%	3.0	2.4	25%	2.2	2.5	-11%	1.0	1.0	2%	2.0	2.0	0%
Medical Oncology	3.0	2.1	41%	3.3	1.8	77%	—	1.1	—	—	1.5	—	1.7	1.0	71%
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>10.1</b>	<b>-10%</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>8.6</b>	<b>-4%</b>

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, continued: Comparison of median weeks waited to receive treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2018 and 2017**

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg
Plastic Surgery	13.3	7.2	85%	27.2	13.8	98%	69.0	34.6	100%	—	24.0	—	—	19.9	—
Gynaecology	9.6	6.1	56%	14.1	11.9	18%	11.0	9.1	21%	24.5	—	—	19.3	9.0	114%
Ophthalmology	10.8	13.4	-19%	17.2	20.5	-16%	17.8	10.2	74%	41.2	12.0	243%	11.6	18.9	-39%
Otolaryngology	6.3	7.4	-15%	11.6	15.7	-26%	9.8	14.8	-33%	—	20.7	—	10.6	10.2	4%
General Surgery	7.1	4.7	50%	5.5	8.3	-34%	18.2	19.4	-6%	3.2	11.1	-71%	7.4	2.9	154%
Neurosurgery	13.9	5.1	175%	—	—	—	8.0	14.7	-45%	—	—	—	—	4.0	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	15.8	18.9	-16%	38.7	32.3	20%	41.7	38.9	7%	—	—	—	23.5	36.6	-36%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	0.3	0.5	-46%	1.0	—	—	—	0.1	—	—	—	—	1.9	1.0	97%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	4.5	4.5	1%	20.0	—	—	—	4.0	—	—	—	—	11.4	4.8	137%
Urology	9.0	5.6	59%	10.5	7.1	49%	9.4	8.8	7%	—	—	—	—	3.0	—
Internal Medicine	4.5	5.7	-21%	9.7	7.7	26%	8.7	16.2	-46%	2.0	7.7	-74%	7.7	11.9	-36%
Radiation Oncology	2.5	2.9	-13%	—	2.0	—	2.7	2.8	-5%	—	1.0	—	—	1.6	—
Medical Oncology	2.1	1.0	112%	—	0.5	—	5.0	1.3	287%	2.0	3.0	-33%	—	1.3	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>-1%</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>16.1</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>24%</b>

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, 2018—proportion of survey waiting times that fall within given ranges**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
0–3.99 Weeks	18.2%	12.2%	23.2%	14.1%	23.6%	22.2%	8.1%	12.4%	40.0%	20.0%
4–7.99 Weeks	21.7%	16.4%	28.9%	17.7%	26.8%	25.1%	18.7%	22.4%	24.0%	7.8%
8–12.99 Weeks	19.9%	27.6%	22.9%	27.8%	24.7%	24.9%	23.6%	25.5%	0.0%	36.7%
13–25.99 Weeks	16.7%	25.0%	13.3%	27.4%	15.2%	19.6%	25.2%	17.4%	4.0%	26.7%
26–51.99 Weeks	16.7%	13.4%	9.2%	6.0%	6.6%	5.0%	14.2%	8.9%	32.0%	5.6%
1 year plus	6.8%	5.3%	2.5%	6.9%	3.2%	3.2%	10.2%	13.5%	0.0%	3.3%

Note: Columns do not necessarily sum to 100 as a result of rounding.

**Table 8: Median reasonable patient wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, 2018 (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	21.3	23.7	—	—	10.0	11.2	16.6	—	—	—	14.2
Gynaecology	8.7	9.8	8.9	8.7	7.2	8.9	—	11.0	—	5.4	8.3
Ophthalmology	15.1	10.0	14.0	12.1	10.5	11.4	12.0	8.0	16.0	10.1	11.5
Otolaryngology	10.8	13.1	16.9	11.2	9.2	8.0	12.1	10.8	—	7.3	9.9
General Surgery	6.2	8.0	5.4	4.0	4.8	7.4	7.6	9.5	3.0	6.1	5.9
Neurosurgery	5.9	11.2	13.2	—	7.8	15.9	—	10.7	—	—	9.8
Orthopaedic Surgery	22.5	12.0	12.2	11.1	11.4	11.3	16.4	23.4	—	16.8	13.5
Cardiovascular Surg. (Urg.)	3.0	2.0	—	—	0.6	0.3	1.0	—	—	1.9	1.0
Cardiovascular Surg. (Elec.)	4.3	8.0	—	—	3.7	1.9	6.0	—	—	3.9	3.6
Urology	3.4	11.0	—	4.5	3.6	7.1	6.1	6.5	—	—	4.8
Internal Medicine	4.9	7.2	3.3	2.4	3.4	4.4	5.4	3.9	—	5.5	4.4
Radiation Oncology	5.2	3.4	2.1	—	2.1	3.1	—	1.6	—	—	2.5
Medical Oncology	2.0	2.5	—	—	2.0	1.7	—	—	2.0	—	2.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>7.7</b>

**Table 9A: Plastic surgery (2018)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	26.0	25.0	—	—	12.0	16.0	22.0	—	—	—
Neurolysis	10.0	12.0	—	—	8.0	8.0	8.0	—	—	—
Blepharoplasty	25.0	24.0	—	—	9.0	3.0	13.5	—	—	—
Rhinoplasty	26.0	38.0	—	—	6.0	2.5	18.0	—	—	—
Scar Revision	25.0	24.0	—	—	12.0	15.0	22.0	—	—	—
Hand Surgery	8.0	12.0	—	—	8.0	4.0	5.0	—	—	—
Craniofacial Procedures	8.0	19.0	—	—	8.0	4.0	—	—	—	—
Skin Cancers and other Tumors	3.5	4.0	—	—	4.0	2.0	4.0	—	—	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>21.3</b>	<b>23.7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

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

**Table 9B: Gynaecology (2018)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	5.5	5.5	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	—	8.0	—	5.0
Tubal Ligation	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	—	16.0	—	12.0
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	8.0	10.0	—	12.0	—	6.0
Vaginal Repair	12.0	12.0	12.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	—	16.0	—	4.0
Tuboplasty	7.0	24.0	12.0	10.0	10.0	18.0	—	—	—	—
Laparoscopic Procedures	11.5	12.0	7.0	8.0	8.0	10.0	—	12.0	—	4.0
Hysteroscopic Procedures	7.5	10.5	5.5	8.0	8.0	8.0	—	8.0	—	4.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>9.8</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5.4</b>



**Table 9C: Ophthalmology (2018)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	16.0	12.0	15.5	14.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	9.0	16.0	10.0
Cornea Transplant	12.0	36.0	15.5	20.0	14.3	26.0	10.0	—	—	22.0
Cornea - Pterygium	12.0	9.0	16.0	12.0	12.0	18.0	12.0	6.0	16.0	22.0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	12.0	4.0	12.0	16.0	8.0	6.0	16.0	—	—	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	12.0	2.5	1.0	4.3	3.0	4.0	8.0	3.0	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	14.0	14.0	18.0	16.0	8.0	16.0	12.0	—	—	—
Strabismus	12.0	16.0	36.0	16.0	12.0	16.0	12.0	19.0	—	—
Operations on Eyelids	12.0	8.0	24.0	12.0	5.5	20.0	12.0	—	16.0	—
Glaucoma	4.0	2.5	2.8	3.3	4.0	4.0	10.0	—	—	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>15.1</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>14.0</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>10.1</b>

Note: Weighted median does not include treatment for glaucoma.

**Table 9D: Otolaryngology (2018)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	6.0	7.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	5.0	6.0	4.0	—	5.0
Tympanoplasty	12.0	19.5	25.0	12.0	16.0	9.0	16.0	10.0	—	10.0
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and other Endocrine Glands	7.5	12.0	6.0	12.0	8.0	7.0	12.0	9.0	—	4.0
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	12.0	14.5	25.0	14.0	10.0	10.0	16.0	16.0	—	10.0
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	16.0	27.0	25.0	12.0	14.0	14.0	16.0	16.0	—	10.0
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	12.0	12.0	25.0	12.0	10.0	11.0	16.0	16.0	—	10.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>13.1</b>	<b>16.9</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>12.1</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7.3</b>

**Table 9E: General surgery (2018)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	12.0	8.0	6.0	4.0	8.0	11.0	9.0	12.5	4.0	16.0
Cholecystectomy	8.0	8.0	6.0	4.0	6.0	8.0	9.0	12.5	4.0	16.0
Colonoscopy	8.0	9.0	5.8	4.0	4.0	8.0	6.0	16.0	4.0	6.0
Intestinal Operations	4.0	8.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	6.0	2.0	3.0
Haemorrhoidectomy	12.0	7.0	5.5	6.0	10.0	12.0	18.0	15.3	4.0	16.0
Breast Biopsy	3.0	6.0	3.0	2.0	2.5	3.0	5.0	3.5	4.0	—
Mastectomy	3.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	3.0	4.0	5.0	3.5	4.0	3.5
Bronchus and Lung	4.5	—	8.0	—	3.0	4.0	—	—	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	4.0	—	6.0	—	4.0	8.0	4.0	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	15.0	12.0	6.0	—	13.0	18.0	24.0	—	6.0	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>4.0</b>	<b>4.8</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>7.6</b>	<b>9.5</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>6.1</b>

**Table 9F: Neurosurgery (2018)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	6.0	12.0	24.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	9.0	9.0	11.0	—	12.0	15.5	—	12.0	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	3.0	12.0	12.0	—	6.0	16.0	—	10.0	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	6.0	—	12.0	—	3.0	—	—	—	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>11.2</b>	<b>13.2</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>7.8</b>	<b>15.9</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

**Table 9G: Orthopaedic surgery (2018)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	12.0	12.0	6.0	7.0	7.5	8.0	10.5	12.0	—	3.0
Removal of Pins	12.0	12.0	8.0	8.0	8.5	12.0	12.0	24.5	—	18.0
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	24.0	12.0	13.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	18.0	24.5	—	18.0
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	26.0	12.0	11.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	17.0	25.0	—	12.0
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	24.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	16.0	25.0	—	32.0
Digit Neuroma	26.0	12.0	12.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	17.0	—	—	24.0
Rotator Cuff Repair	26.0	6.0	9.0	8.0	9.0	8.0	15.0	24.0	—	10.0
Ostectomy (All Types)	26.0	12.0	11.0	11.0	12.0	12.0	12.0	—	—	—
Routine Spinal Instability	24.0	21.0	19.0	10.0	12.0	12.0	14.0	12.0	—	12.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>22.5</b>	<b>12.0</b>	<b>12.2</b>	<b>11.1</b>	<b>11.4</b>	<b>11.3</b>	<b>16.4</b>	<b>23.4</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>16.8</b>

**Table 9H: Cardiovascular surgery (2018)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

	Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Emergent	Coronary Artery Bypass	0.0	1.0	—	—	0.0	—	0.0	—	—	1.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	0.0	1.0	—	—	0.0	—	0.0	—	—	1.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	0.0	1.0	—	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	0.5
	Carotid Endarterectomy	0.0	—	—	—	0.0	0.0	0.0	—	—	0.5
	Pacemaker Operations	0.0	—	—	—	0.0	—	0.0	—	—	—
	<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1.0</b>
Urgent	Coronary Artery Bypass	3.0	2.0	—	—	0.8	0.4	1.0	—	—	2.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	3.0	2.0	—	—	0.8	0.4	1.0	—	—	2.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	3.0	2.0	—	—	0.5	0.1	1.0	—	—	2.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	3.0	—	—	—	1.0	0.1	1.0	—	—	0.5
	Pacemaker Operations	3.0	—	—	—	0.3	0.2	1.0	—	—	—
	<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>3.0</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1.9</b>
Elective	Coronary Artery Bypass	4.5	8.0	—	—	2.3	2.3	6.0	—	—	4.0
	Valves & Septa of the Heart	4.5	8.0	—	—	6.3	2.3	6.0	—	—	4.0
	Aneurysm Surgery	4.3	8.0	—	—	5.0	13.6	6.0	—	—	4.0
	Carotid Endarterectomy	4.0	—	—	—	5.0	27.1	6.0	—	—	2.0
	Pacemaker Operations	4.3	—	—	—	3.0	—	6.0	—	—	—
	<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>8.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>3.9</b>

**Table 9I: Urology (2018)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	6.0	16.0	—	—	4.0	6.0	7.0	8.0	—	—
Radical Prostatectomy	4.0	7.0	—	5.0	5.0	8.0	8.0	7.0	—	—
Transurethral Resection - Bladder	3.0	4.0	—	3.5	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	—	—
Radical Cystectomy	3.0	6.0	—	4.0	4.0	4.0	3.0	2.0	—	—
Cystoscopy	2.0	12.0	—	4.0	3.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	—	—
Hernia/Hydrocele	11.0	12.0	—	7.0	8.0	16.0	16.0	31.0	—	—
Bladder Fulguration	4.0	5.0	—	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	2.0	—	—
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	8.0	36.0	—	8.0	7.0	9.0	7.0	5.0	—	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>11.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.6</b>	<b>7.1</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

**Table 9J: Internal medicine (2018)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	5.5	8.0	4.0	2.5	4.0	6.0	9.0	4.0	—	6.0
Angiography/ Angioplasty	3.0	4.0	1.0	2.0	2.0	4.0	3.0	4.0	—	4.5
Bronchoscopy	2.5	3.0	—	1.5	2.0	3.0	7.0	3.0	—	3.5
Gastroscopy	4.0	7.0	2.0	2.5	3.5	6.0	9.0	4.0	—	5.0
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>4.9</b>	<b>7.2</b>	<b>3.3</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.4</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>5.5</b>

**Table 9K: Radiation oncology (2018)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	2.0	3.0	—	—	2.0	2.0	—	1.0	—	—
Cancer of the Cervix	2.0	2.5	—	—	2.0	2.0	—	1.0	—	—
Lung Cancer	2.0	2.0	1.0	—	2.0	2.0	—	1.0	—	—
Prostate Cancer	8.0	4.0	3.0	—	2.5	4.0	—	2.0	—	—
Breast Cancer	6.0	4.0	2.5	—	2.0	4.0	—	2.0	—	—
Early Side Effects from Treatment	1.0	2.0	—	—	1.0	0.5	—	1.0	—	—
Late Side Effects from Treatment	4.0	4.0	—	—	2.8	1.8	—	1.0	—	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>5.2</b>	<b>3.4</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>3.1</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1.6</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

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

**Table 9L: Medical oncology (2018)—median reasonable wait for treatment after appointment with specialist (in weeks)**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cancer of the Larynx	2.0	3.0	—	—	2.0	2.0	—	—	2.0	—
Cancer of the Cervix	2.0	3.0	—	—	2.0	2.0	—	—	2.0	—
Lung Cancer	2.0	3.0	—	—	2.0	1.5	—	—	2.0	—
Breast Cancer	2.0	2.0	—	—	2.0	2.0	—	—	2.0	—
Side Effects from Treatment	0.8	0.0	—	—	0.8	1.0	—	—	0.2	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>2.5</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>1.7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>2.0</b>	<b>—</b>

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

**Table 10: Comparison between median actual weeks waited and median reasonable number of weeks to wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2018**

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.
Plastic Surgery	23.6	21.3	10%	19.3	23.7	-18%	26.7	—	—	10.5	—	—	11.1	10.0	11%
Gynaecology	9.4	8.7	8%	10.4	9.8	6%	8.6	8.9	-4%	7.6	8.7	-12%	9.4	7.2	30%
Ophthalmology	23.6	15.1	57%	18.9	10.0	89%	12.3	14.0	-13%	35.8	12.1	197%	16.9	10.5	62%
Otolaryngology	15.0	10.8	39%	20.4	13.1	55%	15.8	16.9	-7%	17.7	11.2	58%	9.7	9.2	5%
General Surgery	7.6	6.2	23%	8.8	8.0	11%	4.1	5.4	-24%	9.4	4.0	135%	4.5	4.8	-6%
Neurosurgery	11.9	5.9	101%	20.9	11.2	87%	11.6	13.2	-12%	—	—	—	11.1	7.8	41%
Orthopaedic Surgery	42.2	22.5	87%	29.3	12.0	144%	24.3	12.2	99%	42.2	11.1	281%	17.7	11.4	55%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	2.8	3.0	-8%	3.0	2.0	48%	0.4	—	—	—	—	—	0.5	0.6	-14%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	4.9	4.3	13%	18.7	8.0	133%	4.0	—	—	—	—	—	4.8	3.7	29%
Urology	7.1	3.4	109%	13.0	11.0	18%	1.5	—	—	6.0	4.5	33%	3.7	3.6	1%
Internal Medicine	10.7	4.9	120%	11.7	7.2	64%	6.8	3.3	107%	19.6	2.4	727%	6.8	3.4	98%
Radiation Oncology	6.4	5.2	24%	3.0	3.4	-10%	2.2	2.1	7%	1.0	—	—	2.0	2.1	-7%
Medical Oncology	3.0	2.0	48%	3.3	2.5	31%	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.7	2.0	-13%
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>14.1</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>59%</b>	<b>14.9</b>	<b>9.7</b>	<b>54%</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>19.7</b>	<b>6.6</b>	<b>200%</b>	<b>8.3</b>	<b>6.2</b>	<b>34%</b>

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, continued: Comparison between median actual weeks waited and median reasonable number of weeks to wait for treatment after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2018**

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.	Actual	Reasonable	Diff.
Plastic Surgery	13.3	11.2	19%	27.2	16.6	64%	69.0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gynaecology	9.6	8.9	8%	14.1	—	—	11.0	11.0	0%	24.5	—	—	19.3	5.4	260%
Ophthalmology	10.8	11.4	-5%	17.2	12.0	44%	17.8	8.0	122%	41.2	16.0	158%	11.6	10.1	15%
Otolaryngology	6.3	8.0	-21%	11.6	12.1	-4%	9.8	10.8	-9%	—	—	—	10.6	7.3	45%
General Surgery	7.1	7.4	-4%	5.5	7.6	-28%	18.2	9.5	92%	3.2	3.0	6%	7.4	6.1	20%
Neurosurgery	13.9	15.9	-12%	—	—	—	8.0	10.7	-25%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	15.8	11.3	39%	38.7	16.4	137%	41.7	23.4	78%	—	—	—	23.5	16.8	40%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Urgent)	0.3	0.3	0%	1.0	1.0	0%	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.9	1.9	0%
Cardiovascular Surgery (Elective)	4.5	1.9	136%	20.0	6.0	233%	—	—	—	—	—	—	11.4	3.9	193%
Urology	9.0	7.1	27%	10.5	6.1	72%	9.4	6.5	45%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Internal Medicine	4.5	4.4	3%	9.7	5.4	79%	8.7	3.9	122%	2.0	—	—	7.7	5.5	41%
Radiation Oncology	2.5	3.1	-18%	—	—	—	2.7	1.6	71%	—	—	—	—	—	—
Medical Oncology	2.1	1.7	23%	—	—	—	5.0	—	—	2.0	2.0	0%	—	—	—
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>7%</b>	<b>16.6</b>	<b>10.0</b>	<b>67%</b>	<b>17.5</b>	<b>9.2</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>16.0</b>	<b>7.0</b>	<b>130%</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>7.3</b>	<b>49%</b>

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 Canada, 2018**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Plastic Surgery	1.4%	3.6%	—	0.0%	1.6%	0.1%	1.0%	—	0.0%	—	1.7%
Gynaecology	1.7%	2.0%	0.5%	0.6%	0.9%	0.7%	0.0%	0.9%	—	0.3%	1.0%
Ophthalmology	2.2%	1.0%	1.0%	3.8%	1.5%	2.8%	1.7%	1.7%	0.0%	0.0%	1.9%
Otolaryngology	1.1%	0.7%	0.3%	1.8%	1.5%	0.4%	0.0%	0.6%	—	0.5%	1.0%
General Surgery	4.3%	0.4%	0.4%	0.0%	1.3%	1.2%	0.3%	1.0%	1.0%	1.0%	1.7%
Neurosurgery	3.5%	3.5%	0.1%	—	1.7%	1.5%	—	0.6%	—	—	1.9%
Orthopaedic Surgery	4.9%	1.8%	1.6%	1.7%	1.4%	3.3%	2.9%	1.6%	—	1.0%	2.5%
Cardiovascular Surgery	3.9%	—	0.0%	—	1.2%	0.8%	0.0%	—	—	0.0%	2.0%
Urology	1.8%	3.5%	—	0.1%	2.5%	0.4%	1.4%	0.3%	—	—	2.0%
Internal Medicine	1.6%	1.5%	0.0%	3.0%	0.9%	1.0%	0.2%	1.2%	1.5%	0.2%	1.2%
Radiation Oncology	2.0%	2.3%	—	0.0%	1.2%	0.2%	—	5.0%	—	—	1.3%
Medical Oncology	2.2%	2.3%	—	—	1.2%	1.3%	—	0.0%	0.1%	—	1.5%
<b>All Specialties</b>	<b>2.7%</b>	<b>1.8%</b>	<b>0.7%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>1.2%</b>	<b>0.8%</b>	<b>0.4%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>

**Table 12: Estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by specialty, 2018**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	3,767	3,016	349	139	5,138	3,283	938	1,875	—	—
Gynaecology	3,546	4,890	1,046	996	11,031	4,735	1,211	1,003	451	2,411
Ophthalmology	34,920	21,541	3,791	11,018	56,019	27,564	2,855	6,674	1,342	1,805
Otolaryngology	3,763	5,148	1,969	1,464	10,304	4,551	751	684	—	596
General Surgery	20,049	13,444	2,510	5,775	26,668	10,938	886	9,938	239	3,208
Neurosurgery	1,728	2,009	395	—	4,397	2,766	—	210	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	32,605	19,851	5,679	9,789	42,080	19,093	6,451	7,741	—	1,919
Cardiovascular Surgery	664	212	7	—	280	123	38	—	—	24
Urology	7,663	8,103	298	818	14,514	5,745	1,482	2,522	—	—
Internal Medicine	14,717	10,860	1,915	7,193	17,915	2,429	702	2,453	3	1,499
Radiation Oncology	86	41	4	1	406	166	—	22	—	—
Medical Oncology	223	187	—	—	950	318	—	89	3	—
Residual	82,224	69,326	14,724	30,750	165,140	63,514	13,021	25,840	2,488	13,885
<b>Total</b>	<b>205,955</b>	<b>158,630</b>	<b>32,689</b>	<b>67,943</b>	<b>354,843</b>	<b>145,224</b>	<b>28,336</b>	<b>59,051</b>	<b>4,524</b>	<b>25,347</b>
Proportion of Population	4.28%	3.70%	2.81%	5.08%	2.50%	1.73%	3.73%	6.19%	2.98%	4.79%

Canada: Total number of procedures for which patients are waiting in 2018 — **1,082,541**

Percentage of Population — **2.9%**

Notes: Totals may not match sums of numbers for individual procedures as a result of 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 (2018)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Mammoplasty	1,764	1,459	—	—	2,931	1,976	694	404	—	—
Neurolysis	280	173	15	—	612	543	67	165	—	—
Blepharoplasty	193	158	—	1	101	51	16	27	—	—
Rhinoplasty	731	274	—	83	425	64	50	138	—	—
Scar Revision	481	743	196	55	574	177	62	550	—	—
Hand Surgery	317	210	138	—	495	472	49	592	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,767</b>	<b>3,016</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>5,138</b>	<b>3,283</b>	<b>938</b>	<b>1,875</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

**Table 13B: Gynaecology (2018)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Dilation & Curettage	747	804	170	254	2,147	143	157	151	85	784
Tubal Ligation	177	959	223	166	1,667	1,080	263	155	70	274
Hysterectomy (Vaginal/Abdominal)	1,209	1,253	354	264	3,672	2,007	383	309	122	183
Vaginal Repair	256	381	67	64	604	469	51	80	15	54
Tuboplasty	22	22	6	1	23	15	0	2	3	9
Laparoscopic Procedures	186	163	66	47	664	301	47	36	16	44
Hysteroscopic Procedures	948	1,309	161	200	2,254	720	311	270	141	1,063
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,546</b>	<b>4,890</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>996</b>	<b>11,031</b>	<b>4,735</b>	<b>1,211</b>	<b>1,003</b>	<b>451</b>	<b>2,411</b>

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

**Table 13C: Ophthalmology (2018)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Cataract Removal	31,434	17,927	3,235	9,659	49,702	23,861	2,318	5,300	1,332	1,726
Cornea Transplant	288	226	67	90	947	323	0	—	—	—
Cornea - Pterygium	204	145	22	8	198	140	15	26	7	27
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	334	495	68	139	1,150	398	80	240	—	—
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	1,459	518	—	848	1,270	783	22	559	—	—
Lacrimal Duct	120	508	74	53	339	260	76	99	—	12
Strabismus	667	808	112	195	1,688	1,147	86	225	—	6
Operations on Eyelids	414	914	214	26	726	652	260	225	3	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,920</b>	<b>21,541</b>	<b>3,791</b>	<b>11,018</b>	<b>56,019</b>	<b>27,564</b>	<b>2,855</b>	<b>6,674</b>	<b>1,342</b>	<b>1,805</b>

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding. • The procedure data reported generally includes 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 among provinces. There are also differences among provinces regarding payment or reimbursement for ophthalmological surgery at a private facility.

**Table 13D: Otolaryngology (2018)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Myringotomy	408	496	131	149	1,535	1,102	200	83	0	141
Tympanoplasty	336	357	190	60	386	260	49	37	0	59
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and other Endocrine Glands	315	514	117	233	1,361	535	84	53	0	33
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	824	2,391	953	546	3,873	1,667	274	284	0	232
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	475	369	104	105	827	368	31	65	0	28
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	1,405	1,021	475	371	2,322	617	113	162	0	102
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,763</b>	<b>5,148</b>	<b>1,969</b>	<b>1,464</b>	<b>10,304</b>	<b>4,551</b>	<b>751</b>	<b>684</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>596</b>

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

**Table 13E: General surgery (2018)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Hernia/Hydrocele	2,568	2,377	350	1,255	4,071	4,184	222	911	31	546
Cholecystectomy	1,951	2,045	261	486	3,210	2,496	247	1,057	16	482
Colonoscopy	8,394	4,254	599	2,036	4,955	734	146	6,084	110	1,375
Intestinal Operations	5,339	4,097	1,069	1,767	11,823	1,411	172	1,529	71	630
Haemorrhoidectomy	742	297	121	164	1,263	453	22	183	2	136
Breast Biopsy	8	6	2	0	14	16	2	48	1	—
Mastectomy	341	188	63	66	766	753	72	60	8	39
Bronchus and Lung	206	—	18	—	260	514	—	65	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	53	11	2	—	54	40	3	—	—	—
Varicose Veins	446	170	25	—	253	336	—	—	1	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,049</b>	<b>13,444</b>	<b>2,510</b>	<b>5,775</b>	<b>26,668</b>	<b>10,938</b>	<b>886</b>	<b>9,938</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>3,208</b>

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

**Table 13F: Neurosurgery (2018)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Peripheral Nerve	66	120	96	—	547	154	—	15	—	—
Disc Surgery/ Laminectomy	1,245	637	99	—	870	816	—	89	—	—
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	326	1,252	197	—	2,936	1,797	—	103	—	—
Aneurysm Surgery	7	—	1	—	45	—	—	1	—	—
Carotid endarterectomy	83	—	2	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,728</b>	<b>2,009</b>	<b>395</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>4,397</b>	<b>2,766</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

**Table 13G: Orthopaedic surgery (2018)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	1,031	549	161	166	1,119	1,720	129	110	—	61
Removal of Pins	1,757	848	222	228	1,332	1,913	140	266	—	55
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	20,751	14,656	4,223	7,074	31,258	10,007	4,721	5,488	—	1,117
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal, Metatarsophalangeal)	1,726	556	138	314	832	471	127	97	—	30
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	316	123	37	52	258	277	38	64	—	10
Digit Neuroma	2,537	617	122	434	1,353	2,199	486	683	—	262
Rotator Cuff Repair	1,427	787	165	211	1,360	683	175	248	—	109
Ostectomy (All Types)	2,061	892	102	300	1,495	918	138	736	—	—
Routine Spinal Instability	998	823	510	1,010	3,073	905	500	48	—	275
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,605</b>	<b>19,851</b>	<b>5,679</b>	<b>9,789</b>	<b>42,080</b>	<b>19,093</b>	<b>6,451</b>	<b>7,741</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>1,919</b>

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

**Table 13H: Cardiovascular surgery (2018)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Coronary Artery Bypass	106	127	4	—	125	43	11	—	—	15
Valves & Septa of the Heart	153	85	3	—	113	39	7	—	—	9
Aneurysm Surgery	3	1	0	—	1	0	0	—	—	0
Carotid Endarterectomy	22	—	—	—	10	1	—	—	—	0
Pacemaker Operations	380	—	—	—	31	40	20	—	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>664</b>	<b>212</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>280</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>24</b>

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

**Table 13I: Urology (2018)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Non-radical Prostatectomy	864	606	—	32	951	1,497	190	166	—	—
Radical Prostatectomy	130	138	—	24	249	217	27	33	—	—
Transurethral Resection - Bladder	361	215	—	54	1,071	616	108	78	—	—
Radical Cystectomy	34	23	—	2	51	40	4	6	—	—
Cystoscopy	4,595	5,317	298	435	8,121	826	516	1,785	—	—
Hernia/Hydrocele	1,173	1,200	—	164	2,213	1,935	493	317	—	—
Bladder Fulguration	498	516	—	105	1,821	578	142	133	—	—
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	8	88	—	2	37	36	3	4	—	—
<b>Total</b>	<b>7,663</b>	<b>8,103</b>	<b>298</b>	<b>818</b>	<b>14,514</b>	<b>5,745</b>	<b>1,482</b>	<b>2,522</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>—</b>

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

**Table 13J: Internal medicine (2017)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Colonoscopy	12,276	9,483	1,703	6,399	14,145	639	313	2,126	—	923
Angiography /Angioplasty	1,992	480	181	626	2,035	1,334	248	232	—	488
Bronchoscopy	125	299	—	39	913	299	76	43	1	68
Gastroscopy	324	597	31	129	822	157	65	51	2	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>14,717</b>	<b>10,860</b>	<b>1,915</b>	<b>7,193</b>	<b>17,915</b>	<b>2,429</b>	<b>702</b>	<b>2,453</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1,499</b>

Note: Totals may not match sums of individual procedures as a result of rounding.

**Table 13K: Radiation oncology (2018)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Radiotherapy	86	41	4	1	406	166	—	22	—	—

Note: 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 (2018)—estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Chemotherapy	223	187	—	—	950	318	—	89	3	—

Note: 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 (2018)—procedures per 100,000 population**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Plastic Surgery	78	70	30	10	36	39	123	197	—	—
Gynaecology	74	114	90	74	78	56	159	105	296	456
Ophthalmology	725	503	326	823	395	328	376	700	883	341
Otolaryngology	78	120	169	109	73	54	99	72	—	113
General Surgery	416	314	216	432	188	130	117	1,042	157	607
Neurosurgery	36	47	34	—	31	33	—	22	—	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	677	463	488	732	296	227	849	811	—	363
Cardiovascular Surgery	14	5	1	—	2	1	5	—	—	5
Urology	159	189	26	61	102	68	195	264	—	—
Internal Medicine	306	253	165	538	126	29	92	257	2	284
Radiation Oncology	2	1	0	0	3	2	—	2	—	—
Medical Oncology	5	4	—	—	7	4	—	9	2	—

Note: 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: Comparison of estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2018 and 2017**

Procedure	British Columbia			Alberta			Saskatchewan			Manitoba			Ontario		
	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg
Plastic Surgery	3,767	3,566	6%	3,016	1,072	181%	349	642	-46%	139	516	-73%	5,138	5,010	3%
Gynaecology	3,546	3,311	7%	4,890	6,644	-26%	1,046	1,233	-15%	996	1,151	-13%	11,031	9,954	11%
Ophthalmology	34,920	38,122	-8%	21,541	17,297	25%	3,791	2,329	63%	11,018	9,562	15%	56,019	62,194	-10%
Otolaryngology	3,763	5,333	-29%	5,148	4,833	7%	1,969	2,418	-19%	1,464	2,184	-33%	10,304	8,243	25%
General Surgery	20,049	17,423	15%	13,444	15,491	-13%	2,510	4,930	-49%	5,775	6,399	-10%	26,668	26,255	2%
Neurosurgery	1,728	2,388	-28%	2,009	1,611	25%	395	374	6%	—	101	—	4,397	4,136	6%
Orthopaedic Surgery	32,605	29,728	10%	19,851	13,994	42%	5,679	4,902	16%	9,789	6,347	54%	42,080	46,456	-9%
Cardiovascular Surgery	664	552	20%	212	213	0%	7	56	-88%	—	1	—	280	715	-61%
Urology	7,663	7,672	0%	8,103	5,111	59%	298	666	-55%	818	1,152	-29%	14,514	18,320	-21%
Internal Medicine	14,717	12,508	18%	10,860	14,425	-25%	1,915	3,295	-42%	7,193	3,364	114%	17,915	10,445	72%
Radiation Oncology	86	108	-20%	41	34	21%	4	3	39%	1	1	29%	406	387	5%
Medical Oncology	223	151	48%	187	102	84%	—	22	—	—	18	—	950	406	134%
Residual	82,224	79,581	3%	69,326	62,488	11%	14,724	16,049	-8%	30,750	24,683	25%	165,140	163,375	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>205,955</b>	<b>200,443</b>	<b>3%</b>	<b>158,630</b>	<b>143,315</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>32,689</b>	<b>36,919</b>	<b>-11%</b>	<b>67,943</b>	<b>55,477</b>	<b>22%</b>	<b>354,843</b>	<b>355,896</b>	<b>0%</b>

Notes: 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, continued: Comparison of estimated number of procedures for which patients are waiting after appointment with specialist, by selected specialties, 2018 and 2017**

Procedure	Quebec			New Brunswick			Nova Scotia			Prince Edward Island			Newfoundland & Labrador		
	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg	2018	2017	% chg
Plastic Surgery	3,283	1,793	83%	938	468	100%	1,875	940	100%	—	137	—	—	381	—
Gynaecology	4,735	3,105	52%	1,211	1,004	21%	1,003	831	21%	451	—	—	2,411	1,067	126%
Ophthalmology	27,564	33,567	-18%	2,855	3,382	-16%	6,674	3,634	84%	1,342	390	244%	1,805	2,731	-34%
Otolaryngology	4,551	5,121	-11%	751	1,057	-29%	684	1,024	-33%	—	185	—	596	536	11%
General Surgery	10,938	7,170	53%	886	1,406	-37%	9,938	10,005	-1%	239	928	-74%	3,208	1,255	156%
Neurosurgery	2,766	909	204%	—	—	—	210	350	-40%	—	—	—	—	42	—
Orthopaedic Surgery	19,093	22,229	-14%	6,451	4,961	30%	7,741	7,384	5%	—	—	—	1,919	2,089	-8%
Cardiovascular Surgery	123	220	-44%	38	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	—	24	12	95%
Urology	5,745	3,568	61%	1,482	1,064	39%	2,522	2,231	13%	—	—	—	—	644	—
Internal Medicine	2,429	2,982	-19%	702	544	29%	2,453	4,235	-42%	3	271	-99%	1,499	2,380	-37%
Radiation Oncology	166	189	-12%	—	22	—	22	26	-15%	—	1	—	—	9	—
Medical Oncology	318	153	108%	—	9	—	89	23	288%	3	3	-23%	—	13	—
Residual	63,514	62,265	2%	13,021	12,112	8%	25,840	23,476	10%	2,488	1,547	61%	13,885	10,655	30%
<b>Total</b>	<b>145,224</b>	<b>143,271</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>28,336</b>	<b>26,030</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>59,051</b>	<b>54,163</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>4,524</b>	<b>3,463</b>	<b>31%</b>	<b>25,347</b>	<b>21,814</b>	<b>16%</b>

Notes: 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 16A: Acute inpatient procedures, 2016–2017**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	17,978	13,840	4,594	4,617	54,264	24,811	3,765	4,211	617	2,160
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/Metatarsophalangeal)	474	548	135	103	707	385	70	55	42	29
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	74	116	20	10	71	60	16	6	2	1
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	140	199	58	91	496	428	13	42	12	25
Osteotomy	969	1,347	196	321	2,877	1,954	143	334	47	95
Removal of Pins	898	1,083	226	303	2,525	1,658	249	242	38	88
Rotator Cuff Repair	743	955	170	242	2,139	1,070	97	191	6	75
Routine Spinal Instability	1,016	1,527	828	513	4,125	2,742	519	314	0	275
Bladder Fulguration	1,379	1,333	384	285	6,055	2,993	338	564	29	266
Cystoscopy	3,617	3,880	709	229	10,079	4,953	646	1,201	109	687
Non-radical Prostatectomy	3,393	2,408	569	261	7,106	3,785	360	673	109	373
Radical Cystectomy	252	174	44	37	595	348	35	59	0	26
Radical Prostatectomy	966	715	203	207	2,585	1,353	163	170	6	135
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	1,152	1,621	323	272	4,633	2,240	252	201	65	439
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	48	52	22	12	165	134	6	29	0	8
Cataract Removal	62	239	42	92	112	303	3	38	8	9
Cornea Transplant	17	86	56	15	36	214	0	24	0	0
Cornea—Pterygium	4	15	0	1	4	15	0	1	0	0
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	67	234	52	46	145	207	3	77	0	4
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	32	52	0	14	56	72	5	13	0	16
Operations on Eyelids	128	198	36	51	281	278	22	72	2	6
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	333	2,158	429	814	675	607	2	196	0	3

**Table 16A, continued: Acute inpatient procedures, 2016–2017**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Strabismus Surgery	24	13	0	4	60	27	0	5	0	1
Myringotomy	235	276	93	90	1,033	1,309	39	74	13	71
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	626	399	69	340	1,266	776	47	141	5	95
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	1,569	1,960	558	530	7,247	4,142	379	517	28	430
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	984	908	527	433	3,572	2,438	216	220	134	310
Tympanoplasty	79	83	13	10	301	179	12	142	4	8
Radiotherapy	396	676	25	52	10,376	2,568	387	428	77	238
Chemotherapy	3,669	2,610	1,068	598	22,417	7,131	911	884	44	454
Breast Biopsy	106	56	19	9	214	209	14	15	4	9
Bronchus and Lung	1,274	1,193	223	374	4,406	3,733	419	413	0	195
Cholecystectomy	3,545	4,446	1,315	1,630	8,642	6,956	935	1,358	155	497
Haemorrhoidectomy	79	72	50	45	196	143	8	21	0	11
Intestinal Operations	9,115	6912	2,479	2,349	25,545	16,726	1,821	2,596	226	1496
Mastectomy	1,825	1,416	504	284	2,960	2,147	181	453	57	338
Varicose Veins	65	13	13	37	20	34	3	5	0	8
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1,605	1,161	317	133	4,275	2,010	263	316	0	310
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	3,342	3,216	1,063	896	12,557	5,713	593	752	0	318
Blepharoplasty	6	11	1	0	32	8	0	5	0	0
Mammoplasty	421	1,010	89	334	1,324	686	195	143	23	126
Scar Revision	794	1,601	178	320	1,481	1,397	89	205	10	70
Coronary Artery Bypass	2,760	1,470	608	589	8,633	6,244	578	668	0	382
Pacemaker Operations	2,937	1,867	743	837	7,376	9,060	779	557	101	363

**Table 16A, continued: Acute inpatient procedures, 2016–2017**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Valves & Septa of the Heart	2,618	2,200	371	586	7,840	5,601	342	621	0	231
Angiography/Angioplasty	5,399	3,792	1,947	1,006	25,195	17,256	1,502	1,793	3	813
Bronchoscopy	744	1,460	181	257	6,997	3,615	224	536	10	321
Gastrosocopy	571	813	134	129	2,916	1,278	224	316	11	106
Dilation and Curettage	296	235	44	83	468	268	11	32	6	29
Hysterectomy	5,088	5,361	1,449	1,640	14,602	8,381	1,104	1,335	225	730
Hysteroscopic Procedures	180	216	39	42	258	168	16	32	6	24
Laparoscopic Procedures	322	271	94	70	1,592	1,036	50	59	7	37
Tubal Ligation	431	2,058	606	625	4,191	1,821	343	263	64	229
Tuboplasty	26	39	11	6	54	28	0	1	4	3
Vaginal Repair	774	1,196	236	361	1,787	1,131	114	314	16	114
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	366	240	29	120	635	435	27	99	4	42
Hernia/Hydrocele	4,131	4,012	1,306	1,577	19,485	7,092	933	1,353	114	604
Carotid Endarterectomy	726	303	98	139	1,331	1,058	180	122	0	53
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	267	354	90	101	690	568	46	44	17	43
Neurolisis/Peripheral Nerve	314	382	70	87	1,691	2,258	67	141	90	22
Colonoscopy	3,293	2,943	1,365	892	9,882	7,821	693	783	55	489
Aneurysm Surgery	344	246	65	80	963	617	61	75	0	28
Residual	118,413	119,384	31,033	32,022	363,816	212,823	22,365	29,899	2,658	16,364
<b>Total</b>	<b>213,501</b>	<b>209,654</b>	<b>58,219</b>	<b>58,253</b>	<b>688,057</b>	<b>397,501</b>	<b>42,878</b>	<b>56,449</b>	<b>5,263</b>	<b>30,732</b>

Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information, All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2016-17 and Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables; and the 2015 ICD-10-CA and CCI Evolution Tables.

**Table 16B: Same day procedures, 2016–2017**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Arthroplasty (Hip, Knee, Ankle, Shoulder)	6,001	6,215	2,490	2,890	27,007	5,798	1,572	1,277	263	261
Arthroplasty (Interphalangeal/Metatarsophalangeal)	1,396	898	265	286	2,900	1,248	183	259	89	102
Hallux Valgus/Hammer Toe	291	261	99	124	1,045	840	59	132	51	30
Meniscectomy/Arthroscopy	2,243	1,586	638	418	5,324	7,024	545	368	59	238
Ostectomy	945	1,094	246	388	3,600	1,719	234	402	64	89
Removal of Pins	3,075	2,590	736	437	5,623	4,974	356	486	105	150
Rotator Cuff Repair	1,067	1,199	401	368	3,755	1,888	252	455	61	240
Routine Spinal Instability	22	1	0	12	80	26	1	0	0	0
Bladder Fulguration	2,321	1,348	984	930	17,619	2,016	582	1,169	172	844
Cystoscopy	33,141	15,870	9,613	2,999	130,689	1,413	2,935	7,639	1,100	8,110
Non-radical Prostatectomy	1,100	220	179	295	2,785	1,081	346	45	2	28
Radical Prostatectomy	1	0	0	0	1	57	0	0	0	0
Transurethral Resection—Bladder	3,538	1,180	548	533	9,286	5,769	609	816	69	265
Ureteral Reimplantation for Reflux	25	78	12	16	73	37	0	4	0	13
Cataract Removal	58,316	37,811	13,975	11,195	129,113	103,096	8,031	13,743	1,641	7,472
Cornea Transplant	538	384	2	90	1,034	585	0	177	0	0
Cornea—Pterygium	526	613	81	35	1,284	1,028	27	73	9	37
Iris, Ciliary Body, Sclera, Anterior Chamber	1,672	1,911	387	405	7,331	3,245	71	964	7	73
Lacrimal Duct Surgery	745	1,416	320	111	2,146	1,055	111	164	3	90
Operations on Eyelids	2,562	3,761	893	120	4,440	3,958	203	272	33	308
Retina, Choroid, Vitreous	10,502	8,624	2,351	2,577	21,333	15,685	46	3,440	4	916

**Table 16B, continued: Same day procedures, 2016–2017**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Strabismus Surgery	1,422	1,667	243	419	4,328	2,358	86	445	9	143
Myringotomy	1,694	2,305	1,858	687	12,268	13,021	1,119	1,009	150	979
Operations on Nasal Sinuses	3,027	1,813	1,053	624	8,795	3,237	319	384	62	347
Thyroid, Parathyroid, and Other Endocrine Glands	481	268	50	109	1,601	498	17	30	0	2
Tonsillectomy and/or Adenoidectomy	2,587	3,784	1,725	986	13,212	8,399	973	704	41	294
Tympanoplasty	650	659	295	212	2,209	1,512	148	180	24	273
Radiotherapy	301	36	76	20	173	813	204	1	0	50
Chemotherapy	243	381	115	9	6,032	647	26	45	23	11
Breast Biopsy	72	15	13	29	144	74	8	1,241	2	811
Bronchus and Lung	64	56	6	8	107	88	2	10	1	2
Cholecystectomy	4,911	4,416	1,403	1,531	19,175	9,269	1,203	1,391	251	1,071
Haemorrhoidectomy	3,136	1,216	1,277	1,172	8,861	1,822	86	456	13	430
Intestinal Operations	60,291	28,594	11,421	11,786	128,148	1,621	421	10,658	1,614	9,424
Mastectomy	4,086	2,493	585	865	12,979	9,037	761	787	144	480
Varicose Veins	1,094	723	249	177	1,735	1,215	220	138	5	30
Disk Surgery/Laminectomy	1,633	219	112	78	1,378	486	86	70	0	2
Elective Cranial Bone Flap	53	39	15	11	165	126	6	16	0	6
Blepharoplasty	421	619	179	12	923	659	37	24	2	15
Mammoplasty	2,977	2,151	593	319	8,203	4,266	707	295	9	328
Scar Revision	457	545	90	154	2,248	902	72	109	38	29
Pacemaker Operations	3,651	946	465	494	4,252	799	258	619	43	433

**Table 16B, continued: Same day procedures, 2016–2017**

Procedure	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
Valves & Septa of the Heart	40	3	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Angiography/Angioplasty	9,402	750	1,195	3,063	1,258	86	648	219	9	1,495
Bronchoscopy	783	2,432	186	254	4,874	276	105	217	14	382
Gastroscopy	1,112	913	274	540	4,211	82	56	449	41	168
Dilation and Curettage	6,177	6,730	1,216	1,804	18,136	4,695	948	1,023	270	2,235
Hysterectomy	151	68	305	75	1,310	315	1	2	1	2
Hysteroscopic Procedures	4,752	5,971	1,352	1,343	11,463	4,513	1,227	1,137	256	2,489
Laparoscopic Procedures	483	436	233	233	1,860	702	103	99	22	97
Tubal Ligation	490	1,677	647	456	4,478	2,189	512	410	66	419
Tuboplasty	141	34	18	5	68	16	0	8	1	11
Vaginal Repair	337	218	74	58	830	393	33	34	11	62
Rhinoplasty and/or Septal Surgery	1,797	1,235	439	359	5,714	2,408	191	261	28	127
Hernia/Hydrocele	12,081	9,754	2,543	2,922	30,180	21,849	2,057	2,391	292	1,391
Hand Surgery/Digit Neuroma	3,631	2,071	1,220	1,162	9,289	7,540	824	1,140	137	691
Neurolisis/Peripheral Nerve	1,426	737	295	268	5,044	2,094	357	186	17	365
Colonoscopy	86,278	53,423	18,597	21,794	139,318	2,481	1,272	16,864	3,057	13,516
Aneurysm Surgery	2	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Residual	178,934	123,078	52,161	49,103	659,166	142,495	18,725	46,775	5,436	50,494
<b>Total</b>	<b>531,295</b>	<b>349,539</b>	<b>136,804</b>	<b>127,370</b>	<b>1,510,603</b>	<b>415,525</b>	<b>49,981</b>	<b>121,712</b>	<b>15,821</b>	<b>108,371</b>

Sources: Canadian Institute for Health Information, All Procedures Performed, by Province and CCI code, 2016-17; Fiscal 2009/10 CCI to CCP Conversion Tables; and the 2015 ICD-10-CA and CCI Evolution Tables.

## Appendix A: Links to Wait Times Data Published by Provincial Government Agencies

**British Columbia** British Columbia Ministry of Health,  
<<https://swt.hlth.gov.bc.ca/>>

**Alberta** Alberta Wait Times Reporting web site,  
<<http://waittimes.alberta.ca/>>

**Saskatchewan** Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network, <<http://www.sasksurgery.ca/>>  
Saskatchewan Specialist Directory, <<http://specialists.health.gov.sk.ca/>>  
Saskatchewan Cancer Agency, <[www.saskcancer.ca](http://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/>>

**Quebec** Quebec Ministry of Health and Social Services,  
<<https://g74web.pub.msss.rtss.qc.ca/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,  
<<https://waittimes.novascotia.ca/>>

**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](http://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/wait_times/data.html)>

## Appendix B: Psychiatry Waiting List Survey, 2018 Report

The psychiatry waiting list survey was conducted between January 11 and May 15, 2018. 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 Deloitte LLP. This year, the overall response rate to the psychiatry survey was 4.5% ([table B1](#)). As a result of the low response rate, results should be interpreted with caution.

**Table B1: Psychiatry (2018)—summary of responses, 2018**

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL	CAN
Mailed	599	350	79	150	1,655	1,070	37	111	9	39	4,099
Number of Responses	36	19	8	9	73	23	5	10	0	3	186
Response Rates	6.0%	5.4%	10.1%	6.0%	4.4%	2.1%	13.5%	9.0%	0.0%	7.7%	4.5%

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 discussed 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, “Method” (pp. 11–13), 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.

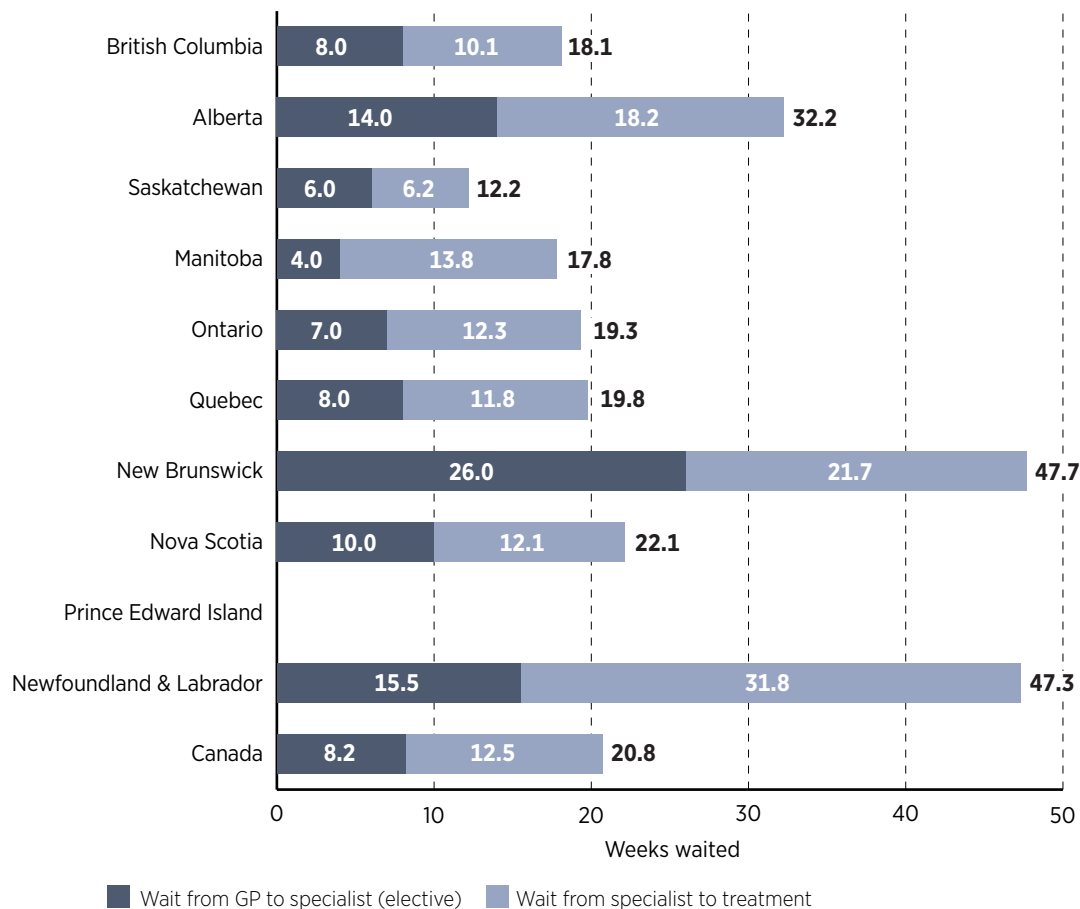


## Findings

### 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 increased from 19.4 weeks in 2017 to 20.8 weeks in 2018 (**graph B1**). The shortest waiting times are in Saskatchewan (12.2 weeks), Manitoba (17.8 weeks), and British Columbia (18.1 weeks). The longest total waits are in New Brunswick (47.7 weeks), Newfoundland & Labrador (47.3 weeks), and Alberta (32.2 weeks).

**Graph B1: Psychiatry—weeks waited from referral by GP to treatment, by province, 2018**



Note: Totals may not equal the sum of subtotals as a result of rounding.

Source: The Fraser Institute's national waiting list survey, 2018.

### Wait time by segment and specialty

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

- 1 from referral by a general practitioner to consultation with a psychiatrist;
- 2 from the consultation with a psychiatrist to the point at which treatment begins.

**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 2.3 weeks, ranging from one week in Saskatchewan to 5.3 weeks in Alberta. The waiting time for referrals on an elective basis across the provinces is 8.2 weeks. The provinces with the longest wait times for elective referrals are New Brunswick (26.0 weeks) and Newfoundland & Labrador (15.5 weeks). On the other hand, Manitoba (4.0 weeks), and Saskatchewan (6.0 weeks) have the shortest wait times for elective referrals.

**Table B2: Psychiatry (2018)—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	5.3	1.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.5	2.5	—	2.5	2.3
Elective	8.0	14.0	6.0	4.0	7.0	8.0	26.0	10.0	—	15.5	8.2

**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 Newfoundland & Labrador (31.8 weeks), New Brunswick (21.7 weeks), and Alberta (18.2 weeks). The shortest waits are in Saskatchewan (6.2 weeks), British Columbia (10.1 weeks), and Quebec (11.8 weeks). Among the treatments, patients wait longest for access to a housing program (27.1 weeks) and for access to an eating disorders program (17.7 weeks), while wait times are shortest for pharmacotherapy (4.5 weeks) and for access to a day program (8.6 weeks).

**Table B4** presents a frequency distribution of the survey responses by province. The wait (after an appointment with a specialist) for the majority of treatments is less than 13 weeks in all provinces except Alberta, New Brunswick, and Newfoundland & Labrador. Waits of 26 weeks or more are least frequent in Saskatchewan (4.7%), and most frequent in Newfoundland & Labrador (52.4%).

**Table B3: Psychiatry (2018)—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	8.0	12.0	6.5	4.0	8.0	12.0	14.0	6.5	—	33.0	9.5
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	12.8	24.0	12.0	22.0	12.0	20.0	14.0	8.5	—	21.0	15.6
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	6.0	8.0	1.5	2.5	4.0	3.3	8.0	4.0	—	17.0	4.5
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	8.0	12.0	8.0	20.0	12.0	10.0	30.0	7.0	—	36.5	11.4
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	8.0	13.0	7.0	8.0	9.0	11.0	14.0	5.0	—	52.0	10.0
Access a day program	10.0	12.0	3.0	9.0	8.0	5.0	24.0	26.0	—	25.0	8.6
Access an eating disorders program	12.0	20.0	7.0	20.0	16.0	24.0	36.0	4.0	—	21.0	17.7
Access a housing program	24.0	34.0	6.5	14.0	38.0	12.0	36.0	—	—	48.0	27.1
Access an evening program	6.0	26.0	7.0	4.0	8.0	16.0	24.0	4.0	—	—	11.2
Access a sleep disorders program	12.0	31.0	6.0	26.0	6.0	12.0	36.0	30.0	—	—	12.3
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	4.0	8.0	3.8	22.5	14.0	5.0	2.5	26.0	—	32.5	10.2
Unweighted Median	10.1	18.2	6.2	13.8	12.3	11.8	21.7	12.1	—	31.8	12.5

**Table B4: Psychiatry (2018)—frequency distribution of survey waiting times (specialist to treatment), by province**

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PE	NL
0–3.99 Weeks	15%	13%	28%	21%	17%	20%	8%	19%	—	5%
4–7.99 Weeks	26%	16%	35%	23%	22%	24%	19%	41%	—	0%
8–12.99 Weeks	26%	19%	21%	19%	25%	20%	16%	8%	—	0%
13–25.99 Weeks	20%	21%	12%	17%	15%	16%	16%	11%	—	43%
26–51.99 Weeks	6%	19%	2%	13%	8%	10%	35%	8%	—	24%
1 year plus	7%	13%	2%	7%	13%	9%	5%	14%	—	29%

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

**Table B5** compares the 2018 and 2017 waiting times for treatment (after an appointment with a specialist). This year's study indicates an overall decrease in the waiting time between consultation with a specialist and elective treatment in three provinces. However, six provinces experienced an increase: Alberta (36%), Manitoba (36%), Ontario (24%), Quebec (33%), New Brunswick (60%) and Newfoundland & Labrador (48%).

**Table B5: Psychiatry—comparison of median weeks waited to receive treatment after appointment with specialist, by province, 2018 and 2017**

	2018	2017	% change
British Columbia	10.1	10.9	-8%
Alberta	18.2	13.4	36%
Saskatchewan	6.2	7.2	-14%
Manitoba	13.8	10.1	36%
Ontario	12.3	9.9	24%
Quebec	11.8	8.9	33%
New Brunswick	21.7	13.5	60%
Nova Scotia	12.1	25.4	-52%
Prince Edward Island	—	28.0	—
Newfoundland & Labrador	31.8	21.5	48%

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 B6 and B7). **Table B6** summarizes the reasonable waiting times for psychiatric treatments and is based on the same methodology used to create table B3. **Table B7** 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 91% of cases, the actual waiting time for treatment (table B3) is greater than the clinically reasonable median waiting time (table B6). In Alberta the wait time for treatment (after an appointment with a specialist) is 371% longer than the median considered reasonable. It should, however, be noted that psychiatrists in Alberta have

**Table B6: Psychiatry (2018)—median reasonable 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	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.0	4.5	3.0	—	4.0	4.0
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	8.0	6.0	6.0	7.0	6.5	6.0	4.0	12.0	—	4.0	6.7
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	3.0	2.0	2.0	3.0	2.0	2.5	2.5	2.0	—	3.0	2.3
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	4.0	4.0	12.0	6.0	4.0	5.3	8.0	2.5	—	12.0	4.6
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	4.0	4.0	7.0	4.0	4.0	5.0	4.0	4.0	—	4.0	4.3
Access a day program	4.0	4.0	1.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	12.0	—	12.0	4.3
Access an eating disorders program	4.0	2.5	6.0	10.0	4.0	4.0	8.0	2.0	—	12.0	4.2
Access a housing program	6.0	4.0	2.5	7.0	7.0	4.0	31.0	2.0	—	4.0	5.8
Access an evening program	4.0	6.0	3.0	6.0	4.0	13.0	5.0	6.0	—	8.0	6.7
Access a sleep disorders program	4.0	4.0	4.0	6.0	4.0	4.0	5.5	12.0	—	8.0	4.3
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	2.0	2.0	1.0	6.0	4.0	3.0	3.0	8.0	—	4.0	3.4
<b>Unweighted Median</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>5.0</b>	<b>7.4</b>	<b>6.0</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>4.6</b>

the most stringent definition of reasonable waits in Canada. The actual overall median specialist-to-treatment waits in Saskatchewan exceeds the corresponding “reasonable” value by 41%, a smaller gap than in the other provinces.

Finally, patients also prefer earlier treatment. On average, only 6.5% 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 treatment within the week, [1] if it were available, is 71.2%.

1. 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 B7: Psychiatry (2018)—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	100%	200%	63%	0%	100%	200%	211%	117%	—	725%	138%
Initiate a course of long-term psychotherapy	59%	300%	100%	214%	85%	233%	250%	–29%	—	425%	134%
Initiate a course of pharmacotherapy	100%	300%	–25%	–17%	100%	30%	220%	100%	—	467%	93%
Initiate a course of couple/marital therapy	100%	200%	–33%	233%	200%	90%	275%	180%	—	204%	146%
Initiate cognitive behaviour therapy	100%	225%	0%	100%	125%	120%	250%	25%	—	1200%	131%
Access a day program	150%	200%	200%	50%	100%	25%	300%	117%	—	108%	98%
Access an eating disorders program	200%	700%	17%	100%	300%	500%	350%	100%	—	75%	323%
Access a housing program	300%	750%	160%	100%	443%	200%	16%	—	—	1,100%	369%
Access an evening program	50%	333%	133%	–33%	100%	23%	380%	–33%	—	—	68%
Access a sleep disorders program	200%	675%	50%	333%	50%	200%	555%	150%	—	—	183%
Access assertive community treatment or similar program	100%	300%	275%	275%	250%	67%	–17%	225%	—	713%	200%
<b>Weighted Median</b>	<b>136%</b>	<b>371%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>134%</b>	<b>184%</b>	<b>138%</b>	<b>193%</b>	<b>103%</b>	<b>—</b>	<b>366%</b>	<b>173%</b>

### Waiting for diagnostic and therapeutic technology

**Table B8** 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 2017, the national waiting times for CT scans have increased in 2018. The median wait for a CT scan across the provinces is 5.5 weeks, ranging from a high of 12.0 weeks (Alberta) to a low of 2.0 weeks (Saskatchewan). In 2018, the median wait for an MRI across the provinces is 14.4 weeks, longer than it was in 2017 (10.8 weeks). Patients in Nova Scotia wait the longest (48.0 weeks), while patients in New Brunswick wait the least amount of time (8.5 weeks). Finally, the median wait

**Table B8: Psychiatry (2018)—waiting for technology: weeks waited to receive selected diagnostic tests in 2018, 2017, and 2016**

	CT-Scan			MRI			EEG		
	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016	2018	2017	2016
British Columbia	6.0	5.0	5.0	20.0	18.0	24.0	3.5	3.0	4.0
Alberta	12.0	7.0	4.0	20.0	17.0	6.0	8.0	4.0	4.0
Saskatchewan	2.0	4.0	3.0	9.0	23.0	9.0	2.5	4.3	5.0
Manitoba	7.0	5.0	8.0	10.0	10.0	10.0	2.0	5.0	5.0
Ontario	5.0	3.8	4.0	12.0	7.0	8.0	4.0	4.0	4.0
Quebec	4.0	4.0	4.0	11.0	9.0	13.0	4.0	3.0	4.0
New Brunswick	10.5	8.0	2.0	8.5	16.0	4.0	8.0	8.0	3.0
Nova Scotia	3.3	6.0	3.5	48.0	12.0	8.0	12.0	7.0	2.5
Prince Edward Island	—	1.5	—	—	22.0	—	—	3.0	—
Newfoundland & Labrador	4.0	4.0	4.0	11.0	20.0	—	12.0	12.0	4.0
<b>Canada</b>	<b>5.5</b>	<b>4.4</b>	<b>4.2</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>10.8</b>	<b>11.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>3.9</b>	<b>4.0</b>

for an EEG across the provinces has increased from 3.9 weeks in 2017, to 4.5 weeks this year. Residents of Manitoba face the shortest waits for an EEG (2.0 weeks), while residents of Nova Scotia and Newfoundland & Labrador wait longest (12.0 weeks). [2]

## 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 20.8 weeks from referral by a general practitioner to elective treatment, and with wait times from meeting with a specialist to elective treatment that are 173% 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.

2. For comparison, the overall Canadian median waiting time for CT scans was 4.3 weeks in the traditional twelve specialties and 5.5 weeks in the psychiatry survey, with a mean absolute difference (the average of absolute differences between the two measures in each province) of 1.8 weeks across nine provinces. The overall Canadian median waiting time for MRIs was 10.6 weeks in the traditional 12 specialties and 14.4 weeks in the psychiatry survey. The mean absolute difference in this case, however, was 5.4 weeks.

## Appendix C: The Fraser Institute National Waiting List Survey questionnaire (2014)

### 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 (diagnosis)		
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 the 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.

## Appendix D: The Fraser Institute Annual Study of Wait Times for Health Care in Canada (2018)

### General Surgery

In which province is your office is located? \_\_\_\_\_

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

3. What percentage of your patients currently waiting for surgery are on a waiting list primarily because *they* requested a delay or postponement? \_\_\_\_\_ %
4. What percentage of your patients currently waiting for surgery do you think would agree to having their procedure performed tomorrow if an opening arose? \_\_\_\_\_ %
5. How long (in weeks) would a new patient have to wait for these tests?  
CT scan \_\_\_\_\_ weeks    MRI \_\_\_\_\_ weeks    Ultrasound \_\_\_\_\_ weeks
6. Approximately what percentage of your patients received non-emergency medical treatment in the past 12 months: In another province? \_\_\_\_ %    Outside Canada? \_\_\_\_ %

Thank you very much for your assistance.

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