

Targets to Address Surgical Backlog and ICU Expansion

December 2021



TARGET:

Surgical service levels restored by end of November to the following target levels:

- 100% in Prince Albert, Lloydminster, Melfort, Nipawin, Humboldt, Estevan, Weyburn, Kindersley and Rosetown.
- 80% - 100% in Yorkton
- 75% in Moose Jaw and Swift Current
- 80% in Saskatoon
- 65% in Regina

Achieving 100% of surgical volumes depends on further reduction of COVID cases within acute and critical care units. This will allow for more staff to return to their home positions. Regina requires recruitment to surgical areas to stabilize the service, in order to achieve 100% of surgical volume.



TARGET:

Eliminate COVID-19 surgical backlog by 2025 and achieve three-month wait time by 2030. Includes an increase of 7,000 surgeries in 2022-23; 6,000 in 2023-24; and 5,000 in 2024-25.

The ministry and SHA are developing a plan that will require incremental steps to achieve higher volumes of surgeries by implementing the following actions.

- *Increase SHA capacity* by expanding and optimizing operating room hours and making greater use of regional surgical sites. Upskill and provide specialized training for registered nurses. Surgical procedures with a higher number of long waiting patients will be prioritized.
- *Increase private provider capacity.* The ministry and SHA are working with our current third party contracted provider to increase the number and types of surgeries they perform and expand hours of operation.
- *Request for Information.* Issue a Request for Information for additional third party surgical providers to achieve expanded day procedures, in-patient procedures, and additional capacity for post-operative care.



TARGET:

Increase permanent ICU beds from 79 to 90 by June 2022 as the first step to achieve 110 ICU beds. Ready the system for a future wave of COVID-19 by expanding critical care training to support short-term surge beds.

- *Expansion of ICU capacity.* Eleven incremental beds are being added to bring the total permanent ICU beds to 90 provincially. These beds will be located in:
 - » Saskatoon St. Paul's Hospital – 3 ICU beds by spring 2022
 - » Regina General Hospital – 2 ICU beds by December 31st, 2021.
 - » Regina Pasqua Hospital – 4 ICU beds by summer 2022
 - » Prince Albert Victoria Hospital – 1 additional ICU bed
 - » Yorkton – 1 additional ICU bed
- *SHA training and upskilling.* Provide ICU upskilling opportunities to ensure adequate human resources to address a potential future surge ICU beds.
- *Specialized Critical Care Training.* Saskatchewan Polytechnic (SaskPoly) has increased specialized critical care training seats in 2021-22 to 144 to help address both short and long term need. The government is exploring further expansion of training seats at SaskPoly.
- The Ministry of Health and SHA will develop a plan to achieve the longer-term goal of 110 ICU beds.
- To ease pressure in ICUs, the SHA is adding ten high acuity beds in Regina and, working with the ministry, will develop a program to care for long-term ventilated patients outside ICUs.



TARGET:

Health Human Resources: Develop strategies to increase number of health providers across all health disciplines.