

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR DOCTOR

When it comes to your health, it is important to discuss all treatment options with your family physician and your specialist. You may wish to ask the following questions:

Questions for your family doctor

- Why are you choosing this specialist?
- How much experience does he/she have in treating my type of problem?
- If I need to have surgery, approximately how long will I have to wait?
- If the specialist you have referred me to has a lengthy wait list, is there another specialist or hospital in the province that can provide the same type of treatment sooner?

Questions for your specialist

- How necessary and how urgent is the recommended surgery?
- What are the risks of the surgery?
- Are there medical treatments available for my condition other than surgery?
- How long have other patients waited for this procedure?
- Is there evidence my condition may worsen while I wait?
- What should I do if my condition changes while I am waiting for surgery?
- How should I prepare for my surgery to ensure there are no delays?
- How can I arrange to be contacted on short notice if a cancellation occurs?
- What should I do if I change my mind about having the surgery, if I need to re-schedule, or if my condition improves and I feel I no longer require the surgery?

Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network (SSCN) - www.sasksurgery.ca

The SSCN, an advisory committee to Saskatchewan Health, is dedicated to creating a fairer and more transparent surgical system for all Saskatchewan people.

Together with key health partners, the SSCN is working to improve the system's effectiveness and organization, so that those who require surgery receive it within appropriate time frames.

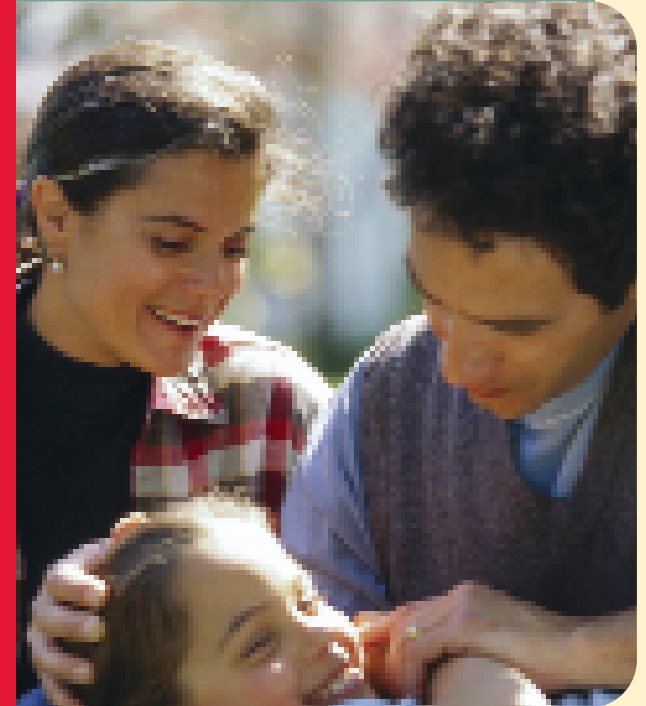
SSCN initiatives include:

- province-wide surgical registry to track all patients needing surgery;
- establishing acceptable wait times in each of the specialty areas;
- developing and implementing criteria for specialists across the province to consistently assess their patients' level of need for surgery.

The SSCN website describes how the surgical care system works, and provides a range of general information, including wait times for non-emergent surgery performed over a six-month period in Regina and Saskatoon.

This information will give you an idea of what to expect as you consider or prepare for surgery.

SURGERY WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW



www.sasksurgery.ca



Saskatchewan
Health

Every year in Saskatchewan about 90,000 surgeries are performed. This brochure will give you important information about accessing the surgical care system. It will give you a better understanding of how the surgical care system works, what options you have, and who to contact.

The length of time you wait for an elective surgery is affected by a number of factors:

- the procedure required;
- the patient's assessed need;
- the surgeon;
- the health region;
- time of year; and
- other factors including availability of health staff.

If surgery is the best option for you, your doctor will classify your surgery in one of the following categories:

Emergent: You require treatment within 24 hours because of an immediate life-threatening condition. You will not be placed on a waiting list if you require emergency surgery.

Urgent: You definitely require surgery but it is not considered an emergency. Patients can wait a short time. All non-emergent patients with a cancer or suspected cancer diagnosis are treated as urgent.

Elective: Patients require surgery, but their condition is not considered to pose an immediate threat to their life or health.

WHO TO CALL

Surgery to be performed in Saskatoon or Regina?

Contact your surgical care co-ordinator or your surgeon's office.

Saskatoon Surgical Care Co-ordinator:
1-866-543-6767

Regina Qu'Appelle Surgical Care Co-ordinator:
1-866-622-0222

Surgical care co-ordinators in Saskatoon and Regina Qu'Appelle Regional Health Authorities provide an important link between patients, specialists, and health regions. They can help by:

- Checking if you have an admission date to hospital;
- Confirming you are on a wait list for surgery;
- Giving you an estimated wait time for surgery; and
- Providing you with general information about hospital waiting list times and booking procedures.

Regional Contacts

All health regions in the province have a designated contact person who can assist patients waiting for surgery. Contact your RHA, check the SSCN website at www.sasksurgery.ca or call your surgeon's office.

RHA	Telephone #
Sun Country	(306) 637-3642
Five Hills	(306) 691-2621
Cypress	(306) 778-9530
Sunrise	(306) 786-0735 1-800-505-9220
Heartland	(306) 463-1000 - ext 229
Kelsey Trail	(306) 862-6100
Prince Albert Parkland	(306) 765-6022
Prairie North	(306) 820-6040
Keewatin Yatthé	(306) 833-5507
Mamawetan Churchill	(306) 425-4823