

Wait Time Information - Total Knee Replacement Surgery

Q: What is a knee replacement?

A knee replacement (total knee replacement) is an orthopaedic surgical procedure in which the end of your thigh bone (femur), the top of your shin bone (tibia), and the back of your kneecap are replaced with man-made parts called prostheses.

Q: Where will I be referred to have this surgery?

Ask your doctor/specialist where you can have your knee replacement surgery, as this procedure is performed in the following hospitals:

Eastern Health

General Hospital - Health Sciences Centre – St. John’s
St. Clare’s Mercy Hospital – St. John’s

Central Health

James Paton Memorial Hospital – Gander

Western Health

Western Memorial Regional Hospital – Corner Brook

Labrador-Grenfell Health

Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital – St. Anthony



Q: How are wait times measured?

For this operation, the wait time is measured from when you and your orthopaedic surgeon decide to proceed with surgery to when the procedure is completed.

Q: What is the benchmark wait time for knee replacement surgery?

The national benchmark for knee replacement is 182 days. This means that orthopaedic surgeons and the health regions are working together to perform the majority of knee replacements within the 182-day target. The most recent wait times for knee replacement surgery in the RHAs are:

Table 1: Knee Replacement Surgery by Region for Q1 (April 1 to June 30, 2013-2014)

| Region | Eastern Health | Central Health | Western Health | Labrador-Grenfell Health |
|---|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------------------|
| Wait Time Information | | | | |
| Number of knee replacement procedures completed | 140 | 43 | 42 | 12 |
| 5 out of 10 patients had surgery within this number of days | 80 | 82 | 91 | 53 |
| 9 out of 10 patients had surgery within this number of days | 202 | 170 | 172 | 69 |
| Percentage of patients who had surgery within 182 days | 88% | 93% | 94% | 100% in 146 days |

Data source: Regional Health Authorities, Newfoundland and Labrador