



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Department of Health and Community Services

## Wait Time Information – Colonoscopy

### **Q: What is a colonoscopy?**

A colonoscopy is a procedure performed by a trained doctor who uses a colonoscope (a long, flexible instrument about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter) to examine the large intestine (colon and rectum). It is often used to evaluate gastrointestinal symptoms, such as changes in bowel habits, rectal and intestinal bleeding, abdominal pain, or to screen individuals for colorectal polyps and cancer.

### **Q: Where will I be referred to have this procedure?**

Ask your family doctor/specialist where you can have your procedure done, as these procedures are performed in the following hospitals:

#### **Eastern Health**

General Hospital - Health Sciences Centre - St. John's

St. Clare's Mercy Hospital - St. John's

Carbonear General Hospital - Carbonear

Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre - Burin

Dr. G.B. Cross Memorial Hospital - Clarenville

#### **Central Health**

James Paton Memorial Regional Health Centre - Gander

Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre - Grand Falls-Windsor

#### **Western Health**

Western Memorial Regional Hospital - Corner Brook

Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital - Stephenville

#### **Labrador-Grenfell Health**

Labrador Health Centre - Happy Valley-Goose Bay

Captain William Jackman Memorial Hospital - Labrador City

Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital - St. Anthony

### **Q: How are wait times measured?**

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

### **Q: What is the benchmark wait time for colonoscopy?**

There is no national benchmark for this procedure.

Table 1: Urgent Colonoscopy Wait Times for Q3 (October 1- December 31, 2012-2013)

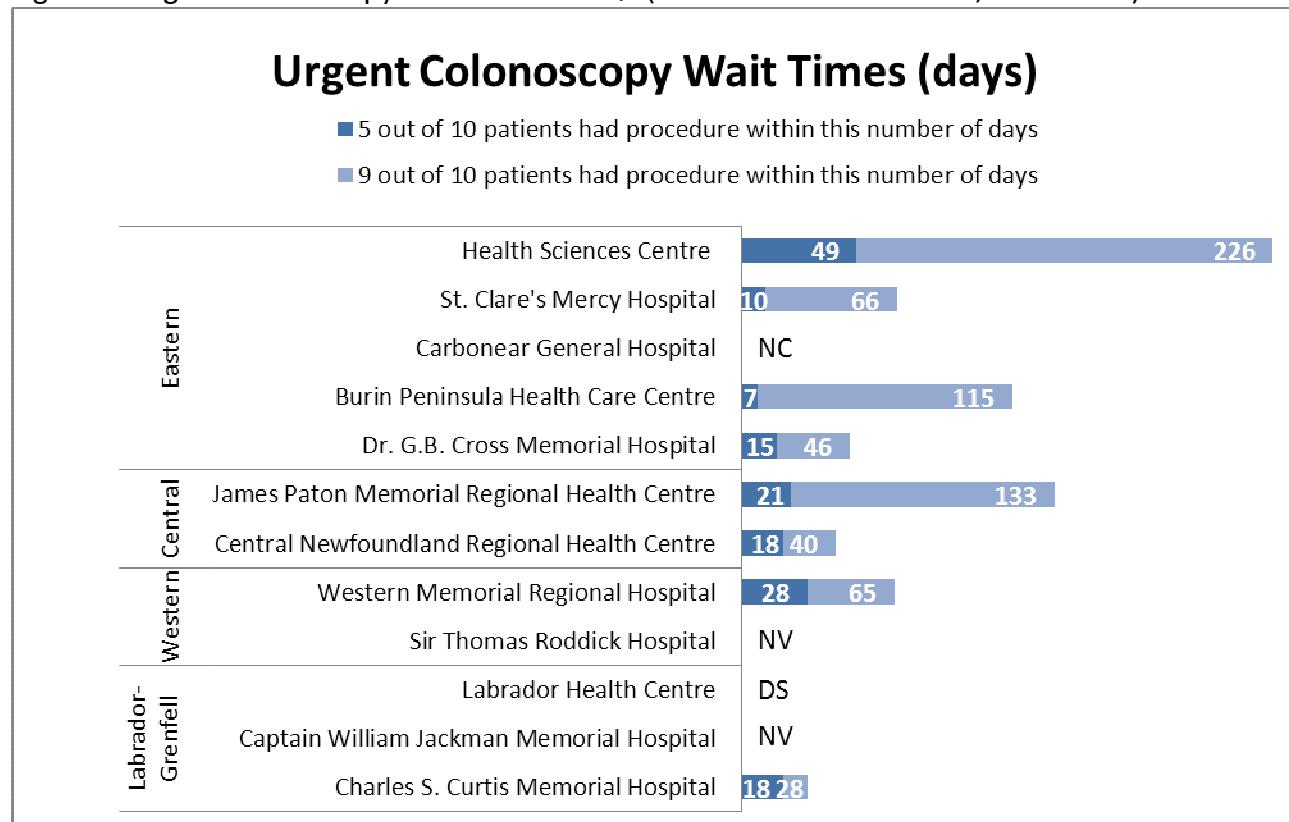
Regional Health Authority	Number of Urgent Colonoscopy Procedures	5 out of 10 patients had procedure within this number of days	9 out of 10 patients had procedure within this number of days	Number of No-Shows
Hospital				
<b>Eastern</b>				
Health Sciences Centre	90	49	226	0
St. Clare's Mercy Hospital	74	10	66	0
Carbonear General Hospital	NC	NC	NC	NC
Burin Peninsula Health Care Centre	32	7	115	0
Dr. G.B. Cross Memorial Hospital	60	15	46	≤ 5
<b>Central</b>				
James Paton Memorial Regional Health Centre	79	21	133	≤ 5
Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre	165	18	40	9
<b>Western</b>				
Western Memorial Regional Hospital	40	28	65	≤ 5
Sir Thomas Roddick Hospital	0	NV	NV	NV
<b>Labrador-Grenfell</b>				
Labrador Health Centre	DS	DS	DS	≤ 5
Captain William Jackman Memorial Hospital	0	NV	NV	NV
Charles S. Curtis Memorial Hospital	15	18	28	≤ 5

Source: Regional Health Authorities, Newfoundland and Labrador

DS: Data Suppression – This indicates that a hospital performed 5 or less cases during the reporting period. To protect patient privacy, wait times associated with these small volumes will not be reported. NV: No Volume – This indicates that a hospital did not perform this service during the reporting period, or that zero cases were carried out. NC: Non-compliant: This indicates that a region or hospital did not report wait times data to the Department by the deadline for publication on this website

Date: March 15, 2013

Figure 1: Urgent Colonoscopy Wait Times for Q3 (October 1- December 31, 2012-2013)



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