



Government of Newfoundland and Labrador  
Department of Health and Community Services

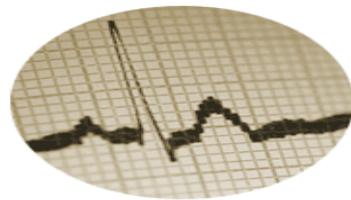
## Wait Time Information - Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG) Surgery

### Q: What is Coronary Artery Bypass (Heart) Surgery?

Coronary artery bypass graft (or open heart surgery) is when a section of a blood vessel from another part of the body (usually the leg, arm or chest) is transplanted to make a detour around one or more blockages in the coronary arteries to restore normal blood flow to the heart.

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

Patients requiring this highly specialized surgery are referred to the Provincial Cardiac Care Program which is located at the General Hospital - Health Sciences Centre (of Eastern Health) in St. John's.



### Q: How are wait times measured?

For this operation, the wait time is measured from when you and your cardiac surgeon decide to proceed with surgery, to when the procedure is completed. It is important to remember that emergency cardiac surgery patients are our first priority which may lead to unexpected postponement of previously scheduled patients.

### Q: What is the benchmark wait time for cardiac bypass surgery?

The national benchmark for cardiac bypass surgery is comprised of three urgency levels: Level 1 (urgent) has a 14-day benchmark; Level 2 (semi-urgent) has a 42-day benchmark; and, Level 3 (elective) has a 182-day benchmark target. This means that cardiac surgeons and the RHAs are working together to perform the majority of bypass operations within the corresponding benchmark target. The most recent wait times for cardiac bypass surgery by urgency category are:

Table 1: Cardiac Bypass Surgery Eastern Health for Q4 (January 1 to March 31, 2013-2014)

Benchmark Urgency Classifications	Level 1: Urgent 14 days	Level 2: Semi-urgent 42 days	Level 3: Elective 182 days
Wait Time Information			
Number of bypass surgeries completed by urgency	13	21	47
5 out of 10 patients had surgery within this number of day(s)	2	8	59
9 out of 10 patients had surgery within this number of days	4	98	133
Percentage of patients who had surgery within this number of days	100% in 5 days	75%	100% in 148 days

Data Source: Eastern Regional Health Authority