

## Appendix 1 (as supplied by the authors)

### Search Strategy

#### **Identification of Provincial and Territorial Ministry of Health Websites.**

We used the Google search engine to identify the url web page address of each provincial and territorial Ministry of Health. Between June and August 2019 we manually searched Ministry of Health web sites for each province and territory to identify the wait time reporting systems in place. Each of these websites were then searched using the search term “wait times”. Press releases, government publications and web pages retrieved in the search as well as relevant menus and submenus accessed from these webpages were reviewed for information pertaining to wait time information systems and wait time reporting websites.

**Table S1 Provincial and Territorial Ministry of Health Websites**

Province/Territory	Ministry of Health Website
British Columbia	<a href="https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/health">https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/governments/organizational-structure/ministries-organizations/ministries/health</a>
Alberta	<a href="https://www.alberta.ca/health-wellness.aspx">https://www.alberta.ca/health-wellness.aspx</a>
Saskatchewan	<a href="https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/health">https://www.saskatchewan.ca/government/government-structure/ministries/health</a>
Manitoba	<a href="https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/index.html">https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/index.html</a>
Ontario	<a href="http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/">http://www.health.gov.on.ca/en/</a>
Quebec	<a href="https://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/en/">https://www.msss.gouv.qc.ca/en/</a>
New Brunswick	<a href="https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health.html">https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/departments/health.html</a>
Nova Scotia	<a href="https://novascotia.ca/DHW/">https://novascotia.ca/DHW/</a>
Prince Edward Island	<a href="https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/health-and-wellness">https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/topic/health-and-wellness</a>
Newfoundland and Labrador	<a href="https://www.gov.nl.ca/health-and-wellness/">https://www.gov.nl.ca/health-and-wellness/</a>
Yukon	<a href="http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/">http://www.hss.gov.yk.ca/</a>
Northwest Territories	<a href="https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en">https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/en</a>
Nunavut	<a href="https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/">https://www.gov.nu.ca/health/</a>

#### **Identification of Provincial and Territorial Wait Time Reporting Websites**

We identified a list of publicly available wait time data published by the provinces. None of the territories maintain wait-time reporting websites. Data were collected from the websites for analysis.

**Table S2 Provincial and Territorial Wait Time Reporting Websites**

Province/Territory	Wait Time Reporting Website
British Columbia	<a href="https://swt.hlth.gov.bc.ca/">https://swt.hlth.gov.bc.ca/</a>
Alberta	<a href="http://waittimes.alberta.ca/">http://waittimes.alberta.ca/</a>
Saskatchewan	<a href="http://specialists.health.gov.sk.ca/">http://specialists.health.gov.sk.ca/</a>
Manitoba	<a href="https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/waittime/">https://www.gov.mb.ca/health/waittime/</a>
Ontario	<a href="https://www.ontario.ca/page/wait-times-ontario">https://www.ontario.ca/page/wait-times-ontario</a>
Quebec	<a href="https://g74web.pub.msss.rtss.qc.ca/default.asp">https://g74web.pub.msss.rtss.qc.ca/default.asp</a>

New Brunswick	<a href="https://www1.gnb.ca/0217/surgicalwaittimes/index-e.aspx">https://www1.gnb.ca/0217/surgicalwaittimes/index-e.aspx</a>
Nova Scotia	<a href="https://waittimes.novascotia.ca/">https://waittimes.novascotia.ca/</a>
Prince Edward Island	<a href="https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-pei/wait-times-health-services">https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/health-pei/wait-times-health-services</a>
Newfoundland and Labrador	Health & Community Services website: <a href="https://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/wait_times/index.html">https://www.health.gov.nl.ca/health/wait_times/index.html</a> Western Health website: <a href="http://westernhealth.nl.ca/home/wait-times-2/">http://westernhealth.nl.ca/home/wait-times-2/</a>
Yukon	N/A
Northwest Territories	N/A
Nunavut	N/A

## **Pubmed Search**

### Method

We performed a Pubmed search using the terms:

- “wait time” AND “reporting” AND (province/territory)
- OR “wait time” AND “surgery” AND (province/territory)

We limited the search to English-language papers published from January 2004 to July 2019. The title and abstract of each article were reviewed by RS to determine relevance. Articles were excluded if they did not address surgical wait times, only addressed wait times for specific surgeries, or were limited to reporting outcomes linked to surgical wait times.

The results of the searches are presented below:

**Table S3 PubMed Search Results**

	Initial Search (“wait time” and “reporting”)	Initial Search (“wait time” and “surgery”)	Full Text Articles Retrieved	Full Text Articles Included in Analysis
British Columbia	28	78	0	0
Alberta	34	59	1	0
Saskatchewan	6	17	1	0
Manitoba	8	27	0	0
Ontario	102	181	5	0
Quebec	17	37	0	0
New Brunswick	5	9	0	0
Nova Scotia	10	20	0	0
Prince Edward Island	0	0	0	0
Newfoundland and Labrador	2	6	0	0

Yukon	0	1	0	0
Northwest Territories	0	0	0	0
Nunavut	0	0	0	0