

Fact Sheet: Ready to Treat

Use this fact sheet as a guide to help set a Ready to Treat (RTT) date for each patient. This sheet defines Ready to Treat, outlines when to change it under certain circumstances, when to keep it the same and when to remove a patient from a waitlist.

Questions can be directed to your aCATS Lead. For more information on Ready to Treat, please visit the website <http://www.albertahealthservices.ca/scns/Page12929.aspx>.

WHAT IS READY TO TREAT DATE?

Definition: Refers to the date when the Patient is medically, socially and functionally ready to receive the scheduled surgery.

WHEN TO CHANGE READY TO TREAT DATE

When the Patient is not able to accept the first available surgical date or the Patient requires a change to an already scheduled surgical date and there is a patient-driven delay until the next accepted surgical date.

If a change of RTT is needed, the following should be used to determine the most accurate RTT date.

1. Medical Reasons

The Patient does not meet appropriate standardized medical criteria and the surgery cannot be scheduled until the identified medical issues are resolved.

Examples: Cardiac event, stroke, pregnancy, infection, new diagnosis, chemo/radiation, weight loss required, etc.

Response: RTT is the date when the patient is medically cleared to proceed to surgery.

2. Social Reasons

The Patient is not ready and willing to proceed with surgery.

Examples: seasonal work (farmer, oil & gas rotation, teacher, student), planned vacation/absence, wedding, change in occupation.

Response: RTT is the date the patient is able to accept a surgical date.

3. Functional Reasons

The Patient requires additional resources to proceed with or following surgery.

Examples: care-giver support for patient and/or family, waiting for health care or insurance coverage.

Response:

- a) RTT is the date when the patient supports are in place.
- b) RTT is the date when the coverage is effective.

WHEN TO KEEP READY TO TREAT

When the delay to the surgery date is caused by a system delay and not initiated by the Patient, the RTT date **should not** be changed. The following is a list of reasons the fits this scenario:

- Operating room (OR) running late, case(s) postponed
- OR slate is impacted by emergency cases and bumping of elective cases
- OR seasonal closures – reduced OR capacity
- Surgeon unavailable (sickness, injury, vacation or extended absence)
- Anesthetist / staff unavailable
- OR or facility issues / maintenance
- Equipment or surgical supplies unavailable
- Severe weather or environmental hazard impacting travel of Patient or staff

WHEN TO REMOVE A PATIENT FROM A WAITLIST

The Patient should be removed from the wait list when:

- the clinical condition of the Patient has deteriorated where the surgical procedure is no longer appropriate
- the Patient is confirmed deceased (by Vital Statistics)
- the Patient has had the procedure completed elsewhere (including emergency surgery)
- the Patient no longer wishes to pursue surgery
- the Patient cannot be contacted after multiple (minimum of three) attempts and due diligence
 - includes preadmission appointments and surgery dates
- the Patient has refused three scheduled dates for non-medical reasons
- the Patient is waiting on multiple wait lists for the same surgical procedure
- the Patient appears on one wait list multiple times for the same procedure