



Fact Sheet: Backlog of Health-Care Services and Wait Times

DID YOU KNOW?

A new OMA analysis has found the pandemic created a backlog of almost 20 million health-care services, including doctors' visits, surgeries and diagnostic tests. It will take months, if not years, to clear the backlog of knee replacements, cataract surgeries, hip replacements cardiac surgeries, MRIs and CT scans.

That means more:

- Operating room time
- More hospital bed capacity
- Even longer hours for physicians and other health-care workers already suffering from burnout

Mental health issues, addictions and other health issues will exist and grow for years after the pandemic.

- Mental health diagnoses attributed to the 1918 influenza pandemic continued for years after it ended
- Opioid-related deaths in 2020 increased by 40 per cent, influenced by the pandemic
- A survey by the Conference Board of Canada and the Mental Health Commission of Canada found 84 per cent of respondents reported their mental health concerns worsening since the start of the pandemic
- More than one-third of those with a COVID-19 diagnosis may develop a lasting neurological or mental health condition

The pandemic backlog is on top of pre-pandemic wait times, which were well above recommended timelines for many procedures.

The pandemic has created a significant backlog of health-care services in Ontario



20 million
backlogged health-care services

Doctors' visits, surgeries,
diagnostic tests

1,960
undiagnosed
malignant melanomas

46,000
undiagnosed
squamous cell carcinomas



Years of addressing multiple mental health,
addictions and other health issues ahead

Catching up on the backlog will take years



30 months
for knee
replacements



25 months
for cataract
surgeries



19 months
for hip
replacements



14 months
for heart
bypass surgery



11 months
for MRIs

Source: Ontario Medical Association Analysis of Ontario Health Insurance Plan Data, 2021