



National Physician Diary Study 2009 Wait Time Results by National Specialty Society



Background and Response Rates

The National Physician Diary Study 2009 was conducted between February 12th and March 6th 2009. The purpose of the study was to gather the views of specialist physicians on wait times for specialty care, as well as to collect wait times for specialty care from actual patient records. These specialty specific wait-time results should be read in conjunction with the June 2009 Wait Time Alliance Report Card and the technical backgrounder, which can both be found at www.waittimealliance.ca

The table below shows the response rates per specialty for physicians as well as the number of patients reported on for each specialty area.

Note: Median wait times are reported for each specialty therefore the wait time from referral to consult and from consult to procedure or treatment do not necessarily equal the median wait time from referral to procedure or treatment. In the case of Emergency Medicine both average and median wait times are reported.

	Invitations Sent	Completes (Physicians)	Completion Rate	Number of Patients Reported On
Emergency Medicine	1712	189	11.04%	256
Nuclear Medicine	177	12	6.80%	31
Plastic Surgery	311	64	20.60%	185
OBGYN	1102	152	13.80%	588
Radiation Oncology	266	84	31.60%	160
Psychiatry	1599	188	11.80%	340
Orthopaedics	644	119	18.50%	151
Ophthalmology	581	93	16.00%	95
Anesthesia Chronic Pain	125	41	32.80%	98
Anesthesia	1299	214	16.50%	N.A.*
Gastroenterology	393	33	8.40%	70
Total	8209	1189	14.60%	2010

*Only Anesthesiologists who practice Chronic Pain Management were asked to complete the diary portion of the survey.

Radiation Oncology – Median Wait Times (number of days)



Tumour Type	Number of Cases	Referral to Consult	Consult to Date of Procedure/ Treatment	Referral to Procedure/ Treatment
All eligible radical (curative)	104	14	25	46
-CNS Radical	9	7	14	20
-Breast Radical	10	22	30	59
-Lung Radical	15	13	29	38
-GI Radical	10	16	20	40
-Genito-Urinary Radical	42	18	39	68
-Gynaecology Radical	10	9	20	29
-Lymphoma Radical	8	6	15	25
All eligible palliative	56	6	6	13
-Breast Palliative	9	2	2	5
-Lung Palliative	22	8	7	19
-GI Palliative	8	6	21	33
-Genito-Urinary Palliative	8	7	3	13
-Lymphoma Palliative	9	4	2	8
Overall total/combined medians	160	10	17	33

Base: Patients reported on (n=160); Number of Radiation Oncologists who participated in the study (n=84)