

Canadian Health Systems Overview

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April 28, 2010

Background

- Fellow, American College of Surgeons
- Fellow, Royal College of Surgeons
- Practiced in Canada and U.S.
- Medical leadership
 - Member of American Hospital Association Regional Planning Board
 - Past president of American College of Surgeons (ND chapter)

Canadian health care system

According to Canadian Institute of Health
2009 cost was \$183.1 billion
(\$5,452 per person annually)

Canadian health care system

Dental and vision is usually not covered,
some provinces cover this for children

Pharmaceuticals covered for the elderly and
indigent

Canadian health system

Key aspects:

- Publically funded
- No cost at point-of-service
- Patients are issued an identity card
- Care is provided by private, independent physicians
- Government does not collect patient level information

Beginning of coverage

1946: First discussions of universal care by Tommy Douglas

1957: Hospital Insurance and Diagnostic Services Act to fund 50% of hospital costs

1961: Saskatchewan used federal money to cover physician fees (difficult time)

Beginning of coverage

1966: Medical Care Act of Canada
expanded the Saskatchewan model to all
provinces and territories

1984: Canada Health Act introduced no
patient fees or extra billing

Canada Health Act of 1984

Five principles:

- Public administration
- Comprehensive
- Universality
- Portability
- Accessibility

Source: The Healing of America by T.R. Reid

Accessibility

15 years ago – horrible access issues

Supreme Court Case in 2005

Chaoulli v. Quebec

Hip-replacement surgery for 67-year old in pain was a nine-month wait

Result: Federal government and provinces agreed to spend more money

Wait examples

Wait Times at a Glance

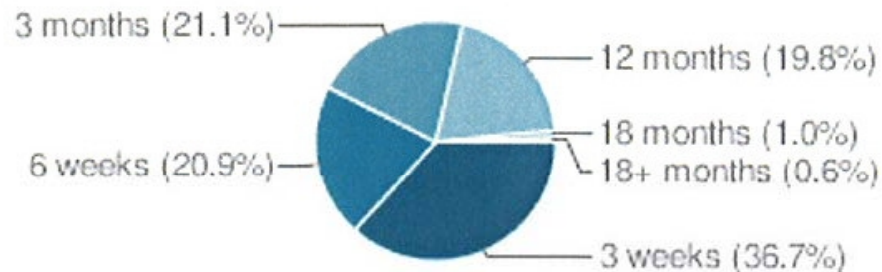
[More details...](#)

Across New Brunswick from January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

Surgeries waiting (ending 12/2009): 15,025

Surgeries performed: 58,066

Surgeries performed by wait time category:



Within...

3 weeks	3 weeks - 6 weeks	6 weeks - 3 months	3 months - 12 months	12 months - 18 months	18 months or more
36.7%	20.9%	21.1%	19.8%	1.0%	0.6%

Source: Moncton City Hospital, New Brunswick, Canada

Medcenter One

medcenterone.com

Orthopedic examples

Total hip – 10-week wait

To see a specialist – 4-week wait

(89% waited less than 3 months)

MRI and CT – 2-week wait

(86% waited less than 3 months)

Public opinion

- Many polls in Canada show system is the most popular government program
- Citizens of U.S. and Canada like their respective systems
- Tommy Douglas “father of Canadian Medicare” was elected “the Greatest Canadian to have lived”

Canadian health system

Strength – good coverage

Weakness – slow to implement technology
and cutting edge treatments

Lesson learned – system needs to be
monitored to assure reasonable access to
healthcare services is maintained