

CONFIDENTIAL ISSUE NOTE

UPDATED: March 9, 2017 – Adult wait times for cochlear implants

Demand for cochlear implants continues to grow. The increased demand and the current adult wait time is above the national standard. Providence Health Care (St. Paul's Hospital) has requested increased funding to address wait times and increased patient volumes.

Background:

Procedure

- A cochlear implant is a device, implanted surgically, which restores hearing to individuals with severe to profound hearing loss.
- Cochlear implant procedures require the combined resources of a team that includes a surgeon, audiologists, social workers and support staff.
- All adult implants are done at St. Paul's Hospital and all pediatric implants are done at BC Children's Hospital.
- National standards indicate that the wait between referral to candidacy should be within six months.
- There are risks associated a long wait. Research shows that patients living with hearing loss develop more cognitive impairments than age-matched peers without hearing loss.
- Hearing loss also increases the risk of social problems, depression and dementia.

Adult cochlear implant program

- Demand has increased due to aging population; expanded criteria – more people qualify for them as there are better implants resulting in better performance than previously; and better general knowledge of the device and procedure leading to patients advocating for them.
- St. Paul's Hospital manages the waitlist and prioritizing of patients.
- The adult cochlear implant wait time in BC has grown from five months in 2011 to approximately 25 months in February 2017.
- In 2015/16, St. Paul's Hospital performed 54 implants – 19 of these from additional one-time funding.
- As of February 10, 2017, St. Paul's has performed 56 implants in 2016/17: 35 in-budget; 19 through additional one-time funding provided in July 2016; and two through additional one-time funding provided in January 2017.
- At February 10, 2017, 27 patients who qualify for surgery are waiting to be booked.
- Another 128 patients are in process: 35 are waiting to be assessed to see if they qualify for the surgery; 77 are awaiting intake; and 16 are waiting for hearing aid trials.
- Of these 128, approximately 60 per cent, or 77 patients, will be candidates for implants.
- Given this, there are an estimated 104 patients on the waitlist for implant surgery (27 waiting to be booked for surgery + 77 in process who are likely to be approved).
- St. Paul's goal is to bring the expected wait for adult procedures down to four months from an average of 25 months, however, that is dependent on funding for more procedures.

Pediatric cochlear implant program

- Wait time for cochlear implantation in pediatrics is much different than in the adult population. The goal of pediatric cochlear implantation is to promote spoken language development, auditory skill development, and long-term educational success for children with severe to profound hearing loss.
- Once children have met all candidacy requirements they need to be implanted as soon as possible in order to optimize critical time periods for speech, language and auditory development, and to minimize the effects of deafness.

- There is not a wait time issue for pediatric cochlear implant procedures at this time.

Funding

- PHSA receives set annual funding for adult cochlear implants and provides these funds to St. Paul's Hospital.
- The annual funding (\$1.32 million) covers approximately 35 adult procedures and has been augmented over the past three years with one-time funding for additional procedures.
- The additional one-time funding is not guaranteed and has created planning difficulties for the adult cochlear implant program.
- To reduce the wait time to its goal of four months, St. Paul's estimated it would need to perform 100 implants in 2016/17 and 85 per year thereafter.
- St. Paul's states that the waitlist for adult cochlear implant surgery in BC could be substantially improved with additional funded cases at a cost of \$1.1 to \$1.5 million per year.
- On March 8, 2017, PHSA allocated dedicated funding for 60 procedures for 2017/18, and will be working with St. Paul's to review what else can be done to reduce the waitlists and keep them within recommended guidelines.
- Additional one-time funding to complete an additional five procedures in 2016/17 was also provided on March 8, 2017.

The Provincial Health Services Authority Communications department recommends that the following key messages be communicated publicly:

Key messages:

- PHSA, the Ministry of Health and St. Paul's Hospital are working to ensure adults in BC who need a cochlear implant can receive one in a timely manner.
- Demand has been increasing year over year making it difficult to predict funding and allocation for these procedures.
- We recognize that long delays can be difficult and improving wait times for adult cochlear implants is a priority.
- Dedicated funding for adult cochlear implants has been increased by more than 40 per cent for 2017/18 so that 60 procedures can be performed.
- This additional funding will help St. Paul's Hospital reduce the wait list for adults needing cochlear implants.

Contact information			
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Creation & revision history	
July 21, Aug 3, 15, 2016; Feb 14, March 9, 2017	MM, AW, PR

COCHLEAR IMPLANTS - INFORMATION REQUEST BC/YT

TREATING PROV	FISCAL YEAR	CITY	ADMIT	DISCH	TOTAL FUNDED	COCHLEAR CODE
BC	16/17		0	0	0 \$	- 0
BC	17/18	s.22	20170403	20170404	\$ 42,316.00	310
BC	18/19		0	0	0 \$	- 0
YT	16/17		0	0	0 \$	- 0
YT	17/18		0	0	0 \$	- 0
YT	18/19		0	0	0 \$	- 0
TOTAL:					\$ 42,316.00	

FOI Request: Cochlear and Bone Conduction Surgeries

01/01/2016 To 03/07/2019

Filename FOI - 2019-91454- MSP and DAD Apr12014 to Sept30 2018 for Cochlear and Bone Conduction Surgeries-v2

Data source Cochlear and Bone Conduction Surgeries

Report Date April 18, 2019

Notes

- In 2014/15 there were 5 cases in Children's Hospital and 1 case in St. Paul's hospital where the same patient received 2 services in the service date.
- 1) service date.
 - 2) In 2015/16 there were 5 cases in Children's hospital where the same patient received 2 services in the service date.
 - 3) In 2016/17 there were 7 cases in Children's hospital where the same patient received 2 services in the service date.
 - 4) In 2017/18 there were 5 cases in St. Paul's Hospital where the same patient received 2 services on the same date.
 - 5) In 2018/19 there were 5 cases in St. Paul's Hospital where the same patient received 2 services on the same date.
 - 5) MSP paid amounts relate to payments for the specific MSP fee item only (2268).
 - 6) All Cochlear implants performed at BCCH are billed to a common payee number. Any implants performed at the non BCCH payee are assumed to have been performed at SPH.

Due to small cell sizes the additional breakdown by residency by year is not available (e.g. residence of the Yukon or other out of province locations). Over the 4.5 years of data collected, greater than 95% of Cochlear Implant cases in reporting Hospitals were performed for BC residents and 100% of Bone Conduction Surgeries with DAD reporting facilities were performed for BC residents.
 - 7) performed for BC residents and 100% of Bone Conduction Surgeries with DAD reporting facilities were performed for BC residents.
- *** Cell size was <5 so data was suppressed
- * incomplete year

MSP - Fee Item 2268 -INTRA-COCHLEAR IMPLANT					
Fiscal year 2014/15 (cutoff Sept. 30) to 2018/19 (cutoff March 31, 2019)					
Fiscal Year	Hospital	Distinct PHNs	Distinct PHN & Service Date	Paid Service	MSP Paid
2014/2015	Children's	32	34	39	\$ 35,299.71
	St. Paul's	36	36	37	\$ 34,862.61
Total		68	70	76	\$ 70,162.32
2015/2016	Children's	27	29	34	\$ 29,969.82
	St. Paul's	56	56	56	\$ 53,296.36
Total		83	85	90	\$ 83,266.18
2016/17	Children's	18	20	27	\$ 22,474.94
	St. Paul's	81	82	83	\$ 77,414.72
Total		99	102	110	\$ 99,889.66
2017/18	Children's	16	16	16	\$ 15,347.49
	St. Paul's	62	64	66	\$ 61,894.11
Total		78	80	82	\$ 77,241.60
2018/19*	Children's	12	12	13	\$ 12,531.95
	St. Paul's	59	61	61	\$ 57,819.23
Total		71	73	74	\$ 70,351.18

*** Cell size was <5 so data was suppressed

* incomplete year

Cochlear Implant Cases performed by hospital		
Fiscal year 2014/15 to 2018/19*		
Fiscal Year	Hospital	Cases
2014/2015	Children's	36
	St. Paul's and other facilities	39
Total		75
2015/2016	Children's	29
	St. Paul's and other facilities	54
Total		83
2016/2017	Children's	25
	St. Paul's and other facilities	78
Total		103
2017/18	Children's	26
	St. Paul's and other facilities	60
Total		86
2018/19*	Children's	8
	St. Paul's and other facilities	27
Total		35

Bone Conduction Surgeries performed by hospital		
Fiscal year 2014/15 to 2018/19*		
Fiscal Year	Hospital	Cases
2014/2015	Children's	7
	St. Paul's and other facilities	12
Total		19
2015/2016	Children's	s.22
	St. Paul's and other facilities	12
Total		> 12
2016/2017	Children's	s.22
	St. Paul's and other facilities	16
Total		> 16
2017/18	Children's	s.22
	St. Paul's and other facilities	17
Total		>17
2018/19*	Children's	s.22
	St. Paul's and other facilities	10
Total		>10

*** Cell size was <5 so data was suppressed

* incomplete year

MSP - Fee Item 2268 -INTRA-COCHLEAR IMPLANT					
Fiscal year 2014/15 and 2017/18, cutoff as of Sept. 30, 2018					
Fiscal Year	Hospital	Distinct PHNs	Distinct PHN & Service Date	Paid Service	MSP Paid
2014/2015	Children's	32	34	39	\$ 35,299.71
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	St. Paul's	59	61	61	\$ 57,819.23
Total		71	73	74	\$ 70,351.18

Cochlear Implant Cases performed by hospital and province of residence					
Fiscal year 2014/15 to 2018/19* (cutoff as of Sept. 30, 2018)					
Fiscal Year	Hospital	Cases			
		BC	YT	Other	Total
2014/2015	Children's	36			36
	St. Paul's and other facilities	38			s.22
Total		74			
2015/2016	Children's	29			29
	St. Paul's and other facilities	54			54
Total		83			83
2016/2017	Children's	25			25
	St. Paul's and other facilities	75			s.22
Total		100			
2017/18	Children's	25			s.22
	St. Paul's and other facilities	59			
Total		84			
2018/19*	Children's	8			8
	St. Paul's and other facilities	25			s.22
Total		33			

Bone Conduction Surgeries performed by hospital		
Fiscal year 2014/15 to 2018/19* (cutoff as of Sept. 30, 2018)		
Fiscal Year	Hospital	Cases
		BC
2014/2015	Children's	7
	St. Paul's and other facilities	12
Total		19
2015/2016	Children's	5
	St. Paul's and other facilities	12
Total		17
2016/2017	Children's	s.22
	St. Paul's and other facilities	16
Total		s.22
2017/18	Children's	s.22
	St. Paul's and other facilities	17
Total		s.22
2018/19*	Children's	s.22
	St. Paul's and other facilities	10
Total		s.22

Notes:

- 1) In 2014/15 there were 5 cases in Children's Hospital and s.22 case in St. Paul's hospital where the same patient received 2 services in the service date.
 - 2) In 2015/16 there were s.22 cases in Children's hospital where the same patient received 2 services in the service date.
 - 3) In 2016/17 there were 7 cases in Children's hospital where the same patient received 2 services in the service date.
 - 4) In 2017/18 there were s.22 cases in St. Paul's Hospital where the same patient received 2 services on the same date.
 - 5) In 2018/19 there were s.22 cases in St. Paul's Hospital where the same patient received 2 services on the same date.
 - 5) MSP paid amounts relate to payments for the specific MSP fee item only (2268).
 - 6) All Cochlear implants performed at BCCH are billed to a common payee number. Any implants performed at the non BCCH payee are assumed to have been performed at SPH.
 - 7) Residence is determined by province issuing the Health Care Number presented at admission
 - 8) Other facilities may include hospital numbers: 101, 116, 121, 123, 139, 202, 301, 302, 401, 501, 801, 917
 - 9) Cochlear Implants determined using ICD10-CA codes: 1DM53LALK and 1DM53LALL
 - 10) Bone Conduction surgeries determined using ICD10-CA codes: 1DL53 and 1DK53
 - 11) All Bone Conduction surgeries were performed for BC residents.
- * 2018/19 data complete to end of Fiscal Quarter 2 (Sept 30th, 2018).