



February 28, 2023

CAITLIN CLEVELAND
MLA, KAM LAKE**Oral Question 1311-19(2): Speech Language Pathology Services**

This letter is to follow up to the Oral Question you raised on February 7, 2023, regarding Speech Language Pathology Services.

The following wait time information for each Rehabilitation service is current as of December 31, 2022 and reflects the wait time for patients in the last 3 month period (September 1, 2022 – December 31, 2022). The wait time starts when a referral for rehabilitation is received by the Health and Social Services Authority and ends when the patient receives rehabilitation services. The wait time is affected by several things, including, the priority assigned to the referral and the location of the referral (e.g. some services and teams may have longer wait times because they receive more referrals or because they have vacant positions).

Rehabilitation Services uses a Wait Time Priority Tool to determine which patients need to be seen more urgently. Priority 1 and 2 clients have a more urgent need for services and Rehabilitation services aim to see these clients more quickly. The wait time for Priority 1 and 2 patients is listed below, and reflects that patients with urgent rehabilitation needs are seen quickly. Priority 3 to 5 clients tend to be a larger group of patients and often wait longer to receive services, as reflected in 75th percentile wait time (75th percentile wait time means that 75% of all patients seen in the last 3-month period waited less than this time and 25% of patients waited longer).

Speech Language Pathology

Team	Current 75 th Percentile Wait Time	
	Adult	Peds
Beaufort Delta	3 months	1 month
Stanton	6 months	5 months
Fort Smith (including Sahtu)	4 months	7 months
Hay River	3 months	1 month

Team	Wait time for Priority 1 Patients		Wait time for Priority 2 Patients	
	Adult	Peds	Adult	Peds
Beaufort Delta	3 days	3 days	2 weeks	2 weeks
Stanton	3 days	3 days	2 weeks	2 weeks
Fort Smith	3 days	3 days	2 weeks	2 weeks
Hay River	3 days	3 days	2 weeks	2 weeks

Occupational Therapy

Team	Current 75 th Percentile Wait Time	
	Adult	Peds
Beaufort Delta	5 months	10 months
Stanton	2 months	2 months
Fort Smith	4 months	1 month
Hay River	13 months	15 months

Team	Wait time for Priority 1 Patients		Wait time for Priority 2 Patients	
	Adult	Peds	Adult	Peds
Beaufort Delta	3 days	3 days	2 weeks	2 weeks
Stanton	3 days	3 days	2 weeks	2 weeks
Fort Smith	3 days	3 days	2 weeks	2 weeks
Hay River	3 days	3 days	2 weeks	2 weeks

Physiotherapy

Team	Current 75 th Percentile Wait Time			
	Adult		Peds	
Beaufort Delta	9 months		3 months	
Stanton	4 months		1 month	
Fort Smith	8 months		4 months	
Hay River	2.5 months		2.5 months	
Team	Wait time for Priority 1 Patients		Wait time for Priority 2 Patients	
	Adult	Peds	Adult	Peds
Beaufort Delta	3 days	3 days	3 weeks	2 weeks
Stanton	3 days	3 days	2 weeks	2 weeks
Fort Smith	49 days	3 days	2 weeks	2 weeks
Hay River	3 days	3 days	4 weeks	2 weeks

Audiology


Team	Current 75 th Percentile Wait Time ¹			
	Adult		Peds	
Beaufort Delta	13 months		16 months	
Stanton	25 months		20 months	
Team	Wait time for Priority 1 Patients		Wait time for Priority 2 Patients	
	Adult	Peds	Adult	Peds
Beaufort Delta	3 days	3 days	2 weeks	52 weeks
Stanton	3 days	3 days	40 weeks	69 weeks*

* The majority of children waiting are babies referred for their stage 2 infant hearing screen. Most of these referrals are from the Kitikmeot and are waiting on a community travel clinic to be seen.

Wait Time categories defined below:

EMR Priority	Rehab Priority	Threshold (time frame to be seen within)	Description
Urgent	P1	72 hours	Immediate intervention is required to prevent deterioration or exacerbation of condition, severe activity limitation
Urgent	P2	2 weeks	Urgent intervention is required to allow individuals to function safely and independently in their environments.
Semi-Urgent	P3	6 weeks	Intervention is needed in order to prevent deterioration in function and to improve impact on self, home, work, school.
Routine	P4	10 weeks	Intervention is intended to improve quality of life and maximize client's ability to participate in home, work, school and leisure activities.
Routine	P5	5 months	Chronic disease management or non-acute exacerbations that require monitoring to ensure continuation of functional activities and ability to participate.

Thank you.



Julie Green
Minister of Health and Social Services

c Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Legislative Coordinator, Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs