

**REPORT TO ALBERTANS**  
**FACILITY DESIGNATION FOR UNINSURED IN-PATIENT ORTHOPEDIC SURGICAL SERVICES UNDER**  
**THE HEALTH CARE PROTECTION ACT**

**Purpose:** This document is intended to inform Albertans of the designation of a non-hospital surgical facility for the provision of uninsured in-patient surgical services under the *Health Care Protection Act* (Act).

**Location:** Canadian Surgery Solutions, Calgary

**Uninsured Surgical Service:** In-Patient Orthopedic Surgical Services

**Designation Term:** January 14, 2011 through March 31, 2014

**Background:**

The *Health Care Protection Act* (HCPA) came into effect September 2000. The purpose of the HCPA is to protect Alberta's publicly funded health care system while providing for the outsourcing of some insured surgical services to designated non-hospital surgical facilities (NHSFs). The HCPA also regulates the provision of uninsured in-patient surgical services at NHSFs. The HCPA explicitly prohibits the operation of privately owned hospitals, queue jumping and extra billing for insured services.

The HCPA requires the operator of a NHSF who proposes to provide uninsured in-patient surgical services and facility services to submit a proposal to the Minister for that purpose. The NHSF must be accredited and receive an HCPA designation prior to performing uninsured in-patient surgical services.

Uninsured in-patient orthopedic surgical services have been provided through a NHSF since September 2002. Uninsured services are not eligible for coverage under the Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan and can only be paid for by certain payors. These services are provided to residents of Canada and are paid for pursuant to provincial or territorial legislation that relates to workers' compensation or by the federal government for Canadian Forces, Royal Canadian Mounted Police or for other Canadian residents where services are a government responsibility pursuant to an act of parliament. Services may also be provided to non-residents of Canada.

**Proposal Assessment Summary:**

- In December 2010, Canadian Surgery Solutions submitted a proposal. In January, 2011 Canadian Surgery Solutions was designated for the provision of uninsured-in-patient orthopedic surgical services as set out below.\*
- In reviewing proposals, Alberta Health and Wellness considers whether the designation serves the public interest or whether there is a negative impact on the publicly funded health care system. To date, there has been no negative impact identified on the public system by a NHSF performing uninsured in-patient orthopedic surgical services.
- The approach to have a NHSF perform uninsured in-patient orthopedic surgical services benefits the public health care system in that these services do not require a hospital setting. A NHSF can be used for the efficient and effective delivery of publicly funded health services while remaining consistent with the principles of the *Canada Health Act*. These arrangements strengthen the public health care system.
- Canadian Surgery Solutions is accredited by the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Alberta to perform the uninsured orthopedic surgical procedures.
- There are no public funding implications associated with the designation of Canadian Surgery Solutions.

\*Please note, the procedure categories and maximum volumes are listed on the following page.

<b>FOR UNINSURED IN-PATIENT ORTHOPEDIC SURGICAL PROVIDED TO RESIDENTS OF CANADA PAID FOR PURSUANT TO PROVINCIAL OR TERRITORIAL LEGISLATION THAT RELATES TO WORKERS' COMPENSATION OR BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR CANADIAN FORCES, ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE OR FOR OTHER CANADIAN RESIDENTS WHERE SERVICES ARE PAID FOR BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PURSUANT TO AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT</b>	
<b>Surgical Procedure Category</b>	<b>Annual Volume</b>
Primary Total Hip Arthroplasty – Uncomplicated	180 maximum procedures in combination per year**  <i>This represents an average of 30 procedures per procedure category per year.</i>
Primary Total Knee Arthroplasty – Uncomplicated	
Primary Total Shoulder Arthroplasty – Uncomplicated	
Primary Total Ankle Arthroplasty – Uncomplicated	
Lumbar Spinal Laminectomy – Not exceeding 2 disc-spaces	
Lumbar Posterior Spinal Fusion – Not exceeding 2 disc-spaces	225 maximum procedures in combination per year  <i>This represents an average of 25 procedures per procedure category per year.</i>
Hip	
Knee	
Ankle	
Lower Extremity	
Shoulder	
Hand/Wrist	
Upper Extremity	
Spine	405 maximum procedures per year
Bone Graft / Harvesting	
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL:</b>	
<b>FOR UNINSURED IN-PATIENT ORTHOPEDIC SURGICAL SERVICES PROVIDED TO NON-RESIDENTS OF CANADA</b>	
<b>Surgical Procedure Category</b>	<b>Annual Volume</b>
Primary Total Hip Arthroplasty – Uncomplicated	25 procedures in combination per year
Primary Total Knee Arthroplasty – Uncomplicated	
Primary Total Shoulder Arthroplasty – Uncomplicated	
Primary Total Ankle Arthroplasty - Uncomplicated	
Lumbar Spinal Laminectomy – Not exceeding 2 disc-spaces	
Lumbar Posterior Spinal Fusion – Not exceeding 2 disc-spaces	25 maximum procedures per year
<b>ANNUAL TOTAL:</b>	

\*\* year means the period from April 1 in one year to March 31 in the next year.

*Marcia Nelson  
 Deputy Minister  
 Alberta Health and Wellness*