

***Why has Alberta Health Services made a change in the facilities where cataract surgeries will be performed?***

By awarding contracts to the chosen providers, Alberta Health Services will be able to provide more surgeries and reduce wait times for Albertans. Over the next year about 2,140 more surgeries will be added to reduce wait lists.

***How will this change in providers affect me?***

Your doctor has been advised of the change in contracted facilities and will be making arrangements to schedule your surgery at one of the approved facilities.

***I already have a cataract surgery booked at a facility that has not been awarded a contract. What should I do?***

You will be contacted by your physician or by Alberta Health Services in the next couple of days if you currently have a procedure booked. The rescheduling process will begin March 29, 2010 and as soon as your surgeon has rebooked your procedure, you will be contacted again and advised of the new arrangements.

***Will this delay my booked surgery?***

There may be a delay, depending on when your surgery is booked and how soon your surgeon is able to reschedule. For some the transition could take up to 90 days, but the process will be expedited for those patients who already have procedures booked.

***What happens if my problem gets worse or I have an emergency?***

Any emergency will continue to be referred to acute care hospitals in Calgary and Edmonton.

***I have been on the wait list for cataract surgery for a long time. Will these changes result in a longer wait?***

These changes will help to reduce wait lists and ensure more Albertans are seen more quickly. However, the amount of time you will wait will depend on your choice of surgeon. Some surgeons have longer waiting lists than others.