

Manitoba has agreements in place for General surgery (gall bladder and hernia) with the regional health authorities outside of Winnipeg.

Patients who are willing to travel for surgery and who meet the eligibility criteria can self-refer by completing the patient enquiry form at www.gov.mb.ca/health/dsrecovery/portals.html, or by emailing inprovpatient@gov.mb.ca.

If you are currently on a waitlist for surgery, you can also discuss travelling in-province with your family doctor or surgeon.

All patients must be referred and pre-approved before travelling in-province for procedures.

Patients are required to pay for all accommodation, transportation and meal expenses during travel.



More Information

Manitoba's Diagnostic and Surgical Recovery Task Force was created to help reduce surgical and diagnostic waitlists in Manitoba. They have implemented several initiatives, including in-province travel for general surgery outside of Winnipeg.

For more information about the in-province program for general surgery, or to apply, visit www.gov.mb.ca/health/dsrecovery or call 1-888-600-0108.

In Province General Surgery Guide – Gallbladder and Hernia



Eligibility

Patients must meet the following criteria to be eligible for surgery:

- On a waitlist for general surgery – gallbladder removal or hernia repair
- BMI < 45 - Weight within a normal range
- Full COVID-19 vaccination (two doses) - the purpose of this requirement is to reduce the chance of contracting COVID-19 and its subsequent potential impact on recovery
- Stable heart condition or no heart problems
- No recent heart attack within one year
- Stable asthmatic or chronic lung conditions
- Not on home oxygen
- No history of obstructive sleep apnea
- Normal kidney function - not on dialysis
- Well-controlled diabetes
- No recent history of stroke or mini strokes (i.e. within past year)
- No known blood vessel conditions such as an aneurysm
- No liver conditions
- Do not have an immunosuppressive condition
- Do not have low iron or require follow up for history of low iron
- Not on chemotherapy or awaiting cancer surgery
- No muscle conditions such as muscular dystrophy

All patients are screened and must meet all eligibility criteria.

Patient Navigators

Patient navigators work with the referring surgeon to help coordinate the activities associated with travel. The patient navigator will also help your surgeon's office with the pre-op preparation.

The patient navigator will also assist any other questions you may have.

If you meet the eligibility criteria, a patient navigator will contact you for further information.

Before and After Surgery

Before surgery, the surgeon and surgical team will meet with you (over the phone or via a virtual meeting) to answer any questions you may have and provide additional instructions about your surgery.

After the surgery, you will see a surgeon for follow up care.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Will I lose my place on the surgical waitlist if I choose not to travel to another site within the province?

A: No, you will not lose your place on the waitlist.

Q: Will I get to meet the surgeon who will do my surgery before the surgery date?

A: Yes, you will have a virtual meeting with the surgeon and surgical team from the location of your surgery where you can ask any questions you may have.

