**Wait One Measurement Initiative**

The Saskatchewan Ministry of Health collaborated with the Saskatchewan Medical Association to enable measurement of the wait time between when a physician makes a referral to a specialist and when the patient is actually seen by the specialist. Among other benefits, this information will allow for the calculation of the total amount of time that patients wait to receive specialty care, not just the time spent waiting for treatment after the first visit with the specialist. This approach will also allow primary care providers and patients to see the wait times for every specialist in the province.

**How it works**

Saskatchewan has created a new billing code that allows primary care providers to identify when an appointment with a patient resulted in a referral to a specialist. Using the new billing code triggers the start of the wait time clock for that patient in the billing system. The wait time clock stops once the patient is seen by the specialist and their office bills for the appointment. Measuring the elapsed time between the referral billing and the specialist’s billing provides valuable data on each specialist’s wait time.

Once enough data has been collected and validated for each specialty the wait time information will be made available to physicians and patients on the Saskatchewan Specialist Directory to help in discussing referral options.

http://specialists.health.gov.sk.ca/

**How accurate are these results?**

The data collected for each specialist will be validated for accuracy and tested for reliability. The results will be reviewed with the Saskatchewan Medical Association before being posted to the Saskatchewan Specialist Directory. The posted results will then show how long patients are waiting to see a particular specialist.