



Wait Times in Canada: Another Frontier

Exploring new ways to measure,
seeking out new ways to improve access

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President and CEO

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**Need surgery?
Here's how long you'll wait**

Calgary Herald, July 28, 2004

Wait times tough to gauge

The Winnipeg Sun, October 22, 2004

**I waited 18 months for knee
replacement surgery**

Vancouver Island News Group, November 10, 2004

**Waiting for better
wait time management**

*Newfoundland and Labrador Medical Association Newsletter,
Winter 2004*



Where we started

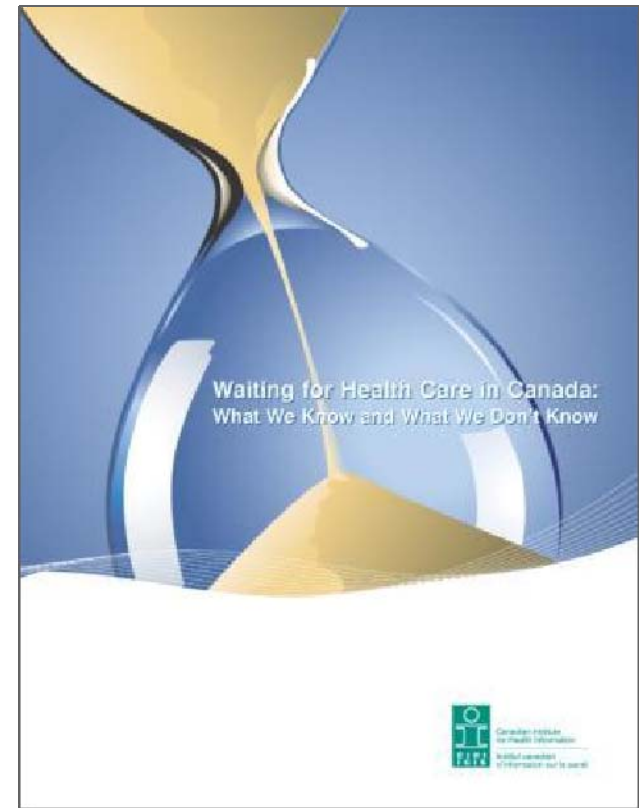
- > **A few provinces report clinician-driven data**
 - Various surgical procedures
 - Cancer care
 - Cardiac care

- > **At the national level**
 - Health Services Access Survey
 - Fraser Institute



Waiting for Health Care in Canada

- > ***Waiting for Health Care in Canada: What We Know and What We Don't Know***
 - March 2006 CIHI report
 - **We didn't know a lot**





Most Provinces Meeting Benchmarks for Some Procedures

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
Radiation	✓	✓	--	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	--	✓
Hip Fracture Repair			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Cataract	✓	✓	--	✓		✓	✓	✓	--	✓

✓ 75% or more meeting benchmark

-- Less than 75% meeting benchmark

□ No provincial reporting against benchmark or records suppressed due to low record submission





Less So for Joint Replacements . . .

	N.L.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
Hips	--	✓	--	✓	✓	✓	--	--	✓	✓
Knees	--	--	--	--	✓	✓	--	--	--	✓

✓ 75% or more meeting benchmark

-- Less than 75% meeting benchmark





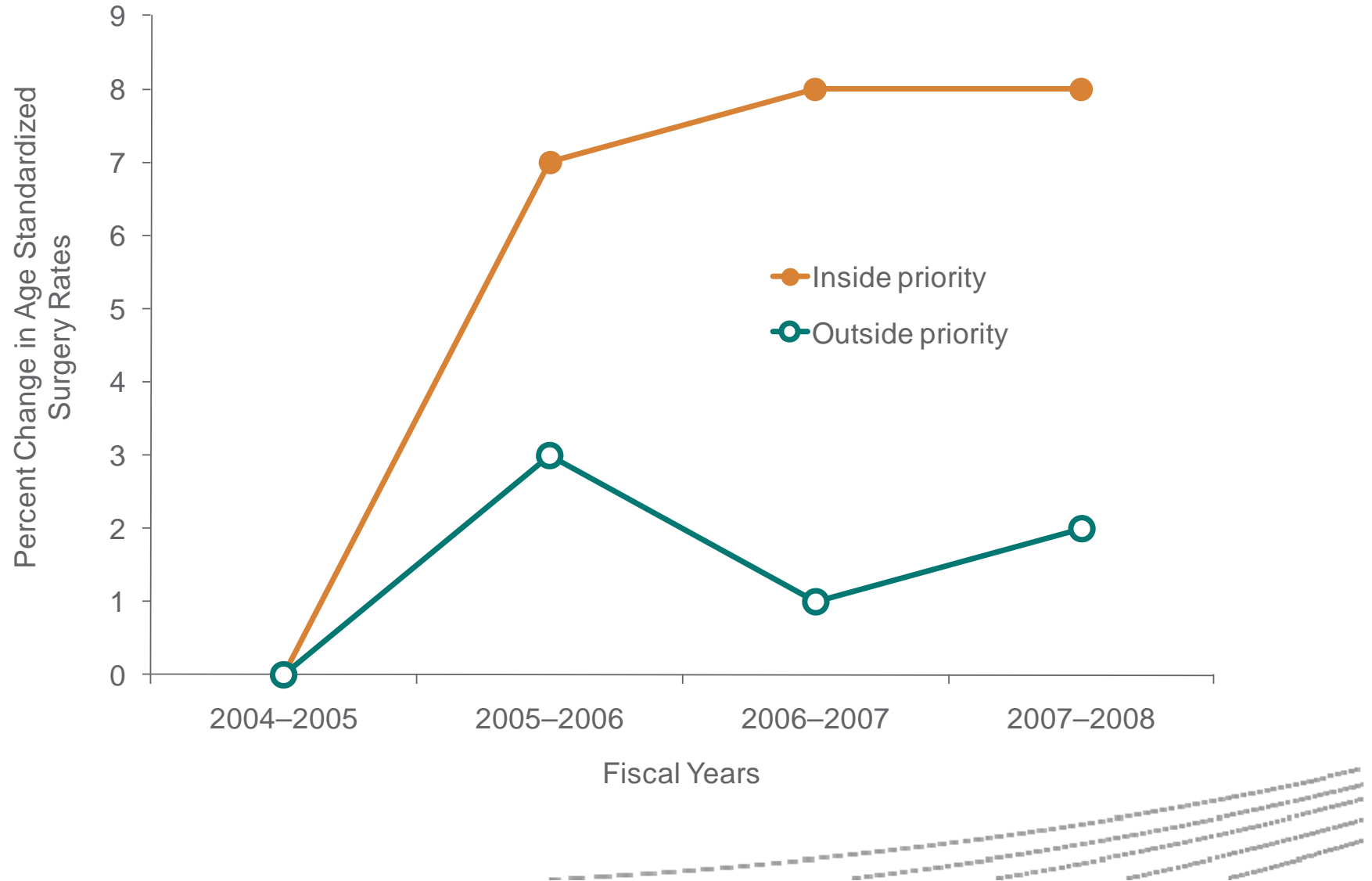
... But Waits Are Still Improving

	N.L.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Alta.	B.C.
Hips		—		—	↓	↓	—	↓
Knees		↓		—	↓	↓	↓	↓
Cataracts				—	↓			—
CT		↑			↓	↓		
MRI		↓			↑	↑		
Radiation	—		—		↓	—		↑

Unable to comment on trends for P.E.I. and Saskatchewan.

 Trends not available

Are Other Surgical Procedures Suffering?





ED Waits for Hip-Fracture Patients

5 hours

for registration to ED

26 hours

in an inpatient bed

Ontario: April through September 2009





How We Got Here

> Wait time reduction methods

- Funding **extra priority procedures**
- Looking at **new roles**
- Clarifying **accountability** for wait times
- Streamlining **assessment** processes
- Managing waits via **better measurement**





How We Got Here: Measurement

- > Focus on **comparability** of wait times data
- > **Voluntary** collaboration
- > Two years
 - **Year 1**: agreement to provide **data** for CIHI tables
 - **Year 2**: **indicator** refinement



Where We're Going

> **New standards to measure**

- Waits for specialist care
- Diagnostic imaging waits
- Expanded waits for cancer care, for example, New Brunswick treatment reporting



Where We're Going

- > **Expanded, more timely data on emergency departments**
 - Updated National Ambulatory Care Reporting System
 - Reduces burden of data collection
 - Speeds up reporting
 - More jurisdictions now participating



Where We're Going

- > **Primary health care**
 - New pan-Canadian data sources
 - Developing indicator standards
- > **New data on alternate level of care patients**
 - Occupy more than 5,200 beds at any given point in time





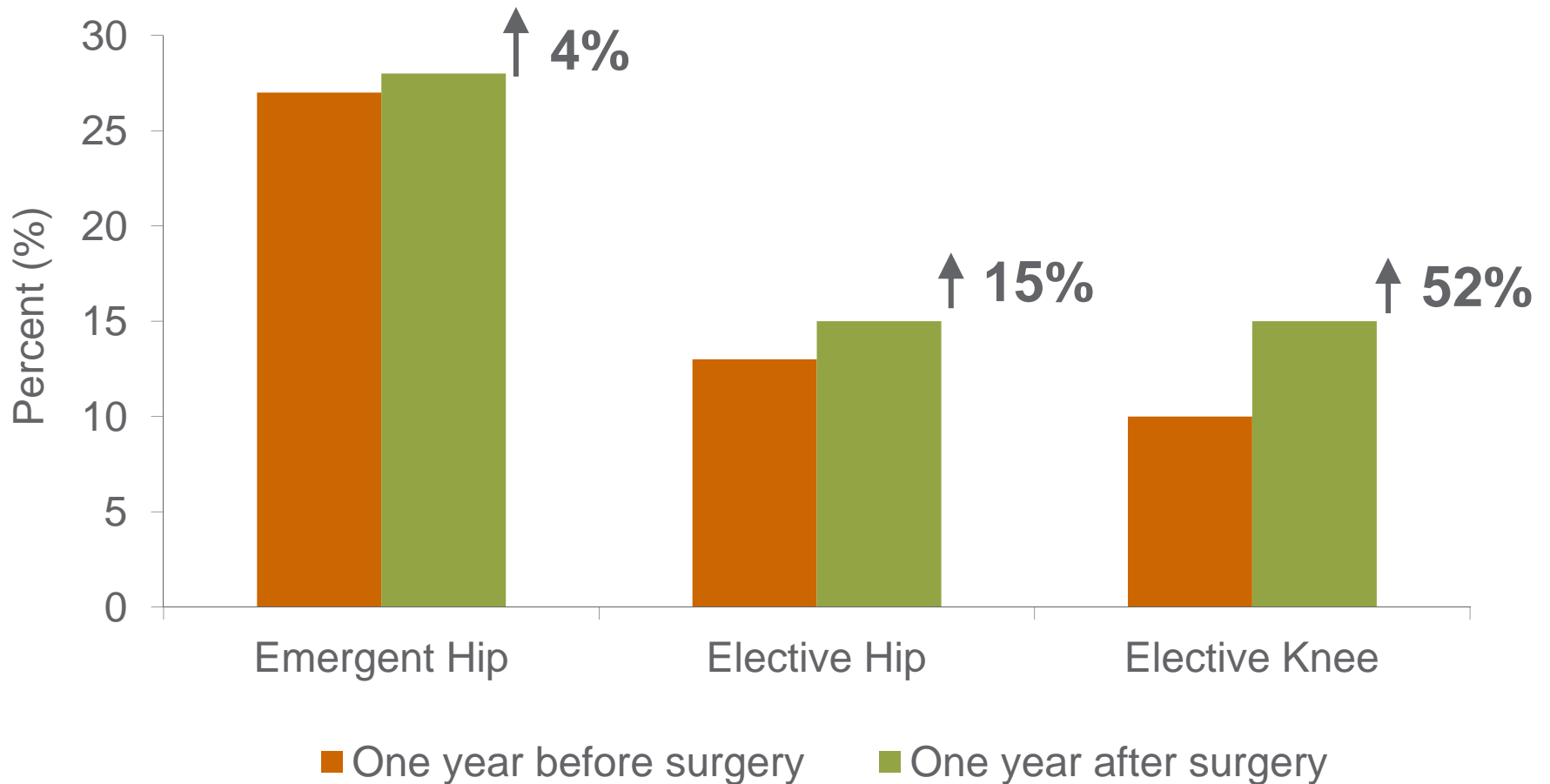
Case Study

- > Winnipeg Regional Health Authority had high wait times for hip fracture surgery
- > It:
 - Changed practices
 - Reorganized surgery slates
 - Put real-time information systems in place
 - Developed new guidelines
- > Efforts are working: **wait times are shorter**





Hospitalizations for Joint Replacements





Early Revisions

	Percent Revised Within 1 Year ($p < 0.001$)	Top Reason for Revision
Emergency Hip Patients	2.0%	Mechanical Complications
Elective Hip Patients	1.7%	Mechanical Complications
Elective Knee Patients	0.9%	Infection



Diagnostic Imaging

> Number of machines 2004 to 2007

- MRI: 149 to 222
- CT: 325 to 419

> Rate of exams 2003–2004 to 2006–2007

- MRI: up 43%
- CT: up 28%



The difference **data** makes



Thank you



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