

2025: Perioperative Network Year in Review

2025 was a year of momentum and meaningful collaboration between the network and zones. For the third year in row surgical volumes were up, waitlists were down and more Nova Scotians received the care they needed sooner.

Volumes and Wait Times

- Surgical volumes up by nearly **3,300** cases
- Operating room use up more than **3,100** hours
- Only province to rank in the top three for per cent of patients meeting national benchmark for joint replacements and cataract surgeries (CIHI 2025).



The year-end surgical waitlist was at **10-year low***

*Despite a provincial population increase of 154,000 during that 10-year period

Central Intake and eReferral

Central intake continued to improve equity, transparency and access to care:

- Nearly **80%** of eReferrals sent to Central Intake to be routed, rather than requesting specific surgeons
- This model also supported waitlist validation and improved access to alternative pathways.

Improving Waitlist Management

Teams are supported to deliver timely, appropriate, and equitable access to care:

- New coding access targets were defined
- By providing insight into which patients should be booked first, the Lucas Algorithm tool has helped teams decrease long waiters. Compliance with the tool is also up **8%**.

Quality

Teams continue to lead data-driven quality improvement initiatives with strong results:

- Aberdeen Hospital **Meritorious Certification**
- Dartmouth General Hospital **Exemplary Surgical Site Infection Reduction Status**
- Vascular Quality Improvement team **3-star recognition**

Medical Device Reprocessing (MDR)

Teams are contributing to **access improvement, transformation initiatives, workplace safety, and workforce development:**

- Province-wide training, onboarding, competency tracking
- Enhanced processes to improve quality and safety

Endoscopy

Increased collaboration is supporting access improvement and standardization:

- Waitlist management and validation
- Completed scheduled endoscopies up **7.4%**
- **8.9%** decrease in endoscopy long waiters

ERAS

Continued expansion of Enhanced Recovery After Surgery (ERAS) models:

- Fully implemented for **cardiac surgery**
- Colorectal ERAS introduced to **four** provincial sites

Research

Continued focus on **research, innovation, and knowledge sharing:**

- Podium and poster presentations at North American conferences
- Published in *Heart & Lung* and *A Beginner's Guide to Implementation*

Storytelling

- **12 stories and profiles** on new care pathways, staff and team recognition, patient access and care, and system transformation
- **7 issues of Perioperative Highlights** distributed to **600+ subscribers**
- Supported production of provincial video to support Medical Device Reprocessing



Over **75,000** surgeries completed

75,649 hours completed in CY 2025 vs. 72,352 surgeries completed in CY 2024



5.5% increase in completed scheduled surgeries

59,339 in CY 2025 vs. 56,248 in CY 2024



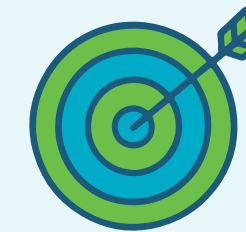
Over **109,000** OR hours completed

109,920 hours completed in CY 2025 vs. 106,768 hours completed in CY 2024



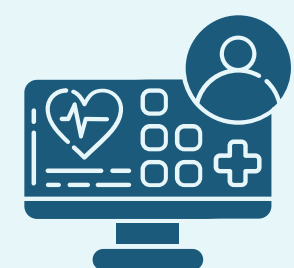
34% decrease in long waiters

1,504 long waiters on Dec 31, 2025 vs. 2,017 on Dec 31, 2024



6% increase in surgeries completed within wait time target

65% in CY 2025 vs. 59% in CY 2024. Surgery only, excludes Endoscopy/Cystoscopy. Excludes unscheduled cases



Over **168,000** eReferrals sent

From January 1 to December 31, 2025

[Click here to view more details on 2025 progress.](#)

