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Freedom of Information (FOI) Coordinator
Ministry of Health
1-1, 1515 Blanshard Street
Victoria, British Columbia
V8W 3C8

by fax to 250-952-3492

Dear Sir/Madam:

Re: Number of Procedures

This is a request pursuant to the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

A backgrounder to the news release announcing the Conversation on Health, said:

“B.C. has invested in additional surgical capacity. Increases in the number of surgeries between 2000/01 and 2005/06 include:

- Knee replacements increased by more than 84 per cent;
- Angioplasties increased by more than 62 per cent;
- Hip replacements increased by more than 47 per cent; and
- Cataract surgeries increased by 33 per cent.”

A graph on the media portion of the Ministry of Health website, illustrates an earlier version of those data as well as a 7.3% increase in the number of coronary bypasses, but the site does not appear to disclose the number of such procedures performed each year. It is not possible to go to the original data in order to determine whether the percentages cited in the government's news backgrounder are accurate.

This request is for figures for 2000/01 to 2005/06, and as many additional fiscal years as possible, on how many knee replacements, angioplasties, hip replacements, cataract surgeries and coronary bypasses have been performed each year. MSP's “Fee-for-Service Payment Analysis 2000/2001-2004/2005” does not support the percentage increases reported by the government, but that is understandable since all procedures are not performed on a fee-for-service basis; consequently, the government must have some other documents that support the percentage increases it cites. If such documents or data exist and include the number of any other procedures, then please include the full document in responding to this request.

A copy of an article that has been posted to my website regarding this request accompanies the fax transmission of this letter.

Sincerely,

David D. Schreck