



MEDIA ALERT • AVIS AUX MEDIAS

A Primer on Wait Times now available from the Wait Time Alliance

Ottawa, December 9, 2005— The Wait Time Alliance (WTA), a partnership of the Canadian Medical Association and 6 specialty societies, has developed a backgrounder on wait times portraying the current situation in Canada and highlighting what Canada's doctors are doing to address this critical issue.

In September 2004, our Premiers agreed to establish comparable indicators of access to health care professionals, diagnostic and treatment procedures and to establish evidence-based benchmarks for medically acceptable wait times starting with cancer, heart, diagnostic imaging procedures, joint replacements, and sight restoration by December 31, 2005.

The WTA is looking forward to the provincial/territorial/federal governments' proposals. The WTA will review these benchmarks against its own benchmarks outlined in its August report entitled — *It's About Time!: Achieving Benchmarks and Best Practices in Wait Time Management*.

You can access the WTA Primer on Wait Times at
www.waittimealliance.ca

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The Wait Time Alliance of Canada (WTA) is comprised of the Canadian Medical Association, the Canadian Association of Radiologists, the Canadian Association of Nuclear Medicine, the Canadian Association of Radiation Oncology, the Canadian Cardiovascular Society, the Canadian Ophthalmological Society, and the Canadian Orthopaedic Association.

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