

**STANTON TERRITORIAL HOSPITAL**  
**Medical Device Reprocessing and Surgical Services**  
**Update for the period of December 2 – 16, 2020**  
**Next Update to be provided on January 13, 2021**



**OVERVIEW:** On July 23, 2020 surgical services at Stanton Territorial Hospital were impacted by issues related to the processing/sterilization of surgical supplies and devices. The NTHSSA has been working to rectify the issues since that time.

**Improvements:** Wet pack issues continue to be minimal. Surgical capacity is steady and all surgeries, that are possible at this time, are being completed. A total of 97 surgeries have been completed since the last update.

**Ongoing/New concerns:** Staining issues continue, joint replacement surgeries continue to be on hold

**ISSUE: Medical Device Reprocessing**

**Current Status:** Wet packs significantly reduced, some staining on towels/linens remains.

**Progress Since Last Status Update:**

- Progress has been made on the water treatment system. Parts are being installed as they are received; completion of this work is waiting on one final part to be received before the system can be completed.
- A representative from Steris, the manufacturer of the sterilization devices, visited Stanton during the week of November 30<sup>th</sup>. During this visit:
  - Water testing results were shared. Steris has brought in water specialists to examine this data and NTHSSA will meet again with Steris before December 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss the results and next steps.
  - All sterilization devices were examined for calibration and test cycles were completed. Staining did not improve.
- A chemical engineer from the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs will be assisting NTHSSA with the water quality assessments.
- Stanton will be procuring additional trays that are used in the sterilization process. Rigid trays will help reduce the impact of future wet packs and staining as the rigid trays are less impacted than wrapped packs of instruments in the reprocessing process.

**ISSUE: Surgical Services**

**Current Status:** Surgical capacity steady. Total joint replacements remain on hold.

**Progress Since Last Status Update:**

- Stanton continues to complete all surgeries that are possible at this time. Since the last update 97 additional surgeries have been completed for a total of 464 surgeries completed since July 23, 2020.
- To date 91 of the 124 originally cancelled surgeries have been completed or scheduled.
- During the week of December 7-11, 5 surgeries were able to be completed in Inuvik. As of this update there are no further surgeries scheduled to be diverted to Inuvik as Stanton is proceeding with most surgeries; total joints continue to be delayed. Inuvik does not undertake total joint surgeries.
- A total of 17 individuals await total joint surgeries, 14 from NWT and 3 from Nunavut. This number has not changed since the last update.
- Alberta continues to see rising COVID-19 numbers and surgery reductions. Total joints in Alberta are not an available contingency at this time.

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**NOTE:**

- NTHSSA has been targeting bi-weekly updates on this issue released on the NTHSSA website. The December 30<sup>th</sup> instance of this schedule will be skipped with the next update provided on January 13, 2021.

**Previous Updates:**

- [Stanton Territorial Hospital Sterilizer/Surgical Capacity Update – December 2, 2020](#)
- [Stanton Territorial Hospital Sterilizer/Surgical Capacity Update - November 18, 2020](#)
- Stanton Sterilization and Surgical Capacity Update - November 4, 2020
- Stanton Surgical Capacity and Medical Device Reprocessing Update – October 5, 2020
- Stanton Medical Device Reprocessing (sterilization) and Surgery Capacity Update.- September 15, 2020
- Stanton Surgical Services Impacted by Sterilization Device Malfunctions – July 24, 2020