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## Supreme Court suspends judgment on private health services for 12 months

OTTAWA (CP) - The Supreme Court of Canada has suspended for 12 months its recent judgment that paved the way for more private medical services in Quebec.

In June, the court overturned Quebec's long-standing ban on the use of private insurance to pay for medical procedures that are publicly available under medicare.

The court ruled 4-3 that Quebec was violating the right of patients to seek private care when faced with long waiting lists in the public system.

Thursday's ruling is retroactive to June 9, when the court issued its initial judgment.

Both the Quebec and federal governments had asked for an 18-month delay in implementing the June judgment.

The June ruling marked a victory for Dr. Jacques Chaoulli, who undertook the case as part of a wider campaign to loosen restrictions on health care.