



Waitemata
District Health Board
Best Care for Everyone

Hospital Services

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13 July 2018



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Waiting times for healthcare services

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 20 June 2018 seeking the following information with regards to waiting times at Waitemata District Health Board (DHB):

What is the average waiting time, as well as longest and shortest individual wait times, for an initial appointment with the following specialists – oncologists, neurologists, cardiologists and gynaecologists –over the last six months?

What percentage of patients arriving at the emergency department are admitted, discharged or transferred within six hours - over the last six months and the last six weeks?

What percentage of hospital beds were occupied for each of the last six months?

What percentage of people referred to mental health services were seen within three weeks? What was the average, longest and shortest wait times? Could this be broken down into age groups 0-19 years, 19-64 years and 65+ years over the last six months?

What was the average wait for elective surgery over the last year? What were the shortest and longest wait times?

Waitemata DHB cares for the largest population of any DHB in New Zealand, currently standing at around 630,000 people. Caution is advised in comparing data between DHBs, particularly where there are significant differences in population size and clinical caseload.

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

What is the average waiting time, as well as longest and shortest individual wait times, for an initial appointment with the following specialists – oncologists, neurologists, cardiologists and gynaecologists –over the last six months?

The oncology and neurology services are regional services which are co-ordinated by Auckland District Health Board (ADHB).

Wait times are influenced by clinical priority based on assessment of the patient's symptoms in the primary care setting and any diagnostic investigations that assist in the prioritisation of care. Patients who wait longer are considered to be at relatively low clinical risk while those with the shortest wait times have more pressing needs and delay may compromise their clinical outcome.

The information regarding the wait times for the cardiology and gynaecology clinics are detailed in the tables below:

Table 1 – Cardiology initial appointment Clinic Wait times

Cardiology	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	March 2018	April 2018	May 2018
Avg waiting times (days)	50	55	63	56	47	54
Max waiting times (days)	296	187	141	146	147	182
Min waiting times (days)	0	0	1	0	0	5

Table 2 – Gynaecology initial appointment Clinic Wait times

Gynaecology	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	March 2018	April 2018	May 2018
Avg waiting times (days)	82	83	82	77	75	70
Max waiting times (days)	158	146	144	161	144	148
Min waiting times (days)	3	0	6	0	2	2

What percentage of patients arriving at the emergency department are admitted, discharged or transferred within six hours - over the last six months and the last six weeks?

The Ministry of Health's 'Shorter Stays in Emergency Departments' health target stipulates a goal of 95% of patients being seen, treated and discharged from the Emergency Department within six hours. In the recently published 2016/17 Quarter 4 DHB performance results Waitemata DHB has consistently maintained one of the highest achievement rates for this target in the country at 97%.

The percentage of patients admitted, discharged within six hours over the last six months is detailed in the table below

Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	March 2018	April 2018	May 2018
97.7%	96.1%	95.7%	97.3%	97%	96%

The percentage of patients admitted discharged within six hours over the last six weeks is detailed in the table below

Week ending	19 May	26 May	2 June	9 June	16 June	23 June
%	95.2%	97.3%	96.8%	96.4%	96.1%	95.6%

What percentage of hospital beds were occupied for each of the last six months?

The percentage of funded hospital beds that were occupied for each of the last six months is detailed by hospital in the table below. This is the midnight occupancy from December 2017 to the end of May 2018 based on funded beds. An occupancy percentage does not give an accurate view of occupancy as we flex beds open and closed to meet patient demand.

Week ending	Dec 2017	Jan 2018	Feb 2018	March 2018	April 2018	May 2018
North Shore Hospital	83.6%	89.1%	90.2%	83.5%	85.9%	89.2%
Waitakere Hospital	75%	70.9%	78.8%	76.7%	74.1%	81.9%

What percentage of people referred to mental health services were seen within three weeks? What was the average, longest and shortest wait times? Could this be broken down into age groups 0-19 years, 19-64 years and 65+ years over the last six months?

Age group	Wait time less than 3 weeks	Wait time between 3 and 8 weeks	Maximum wait time (days)	Minimum wait time (days)	Average wait time (days)
0-19	83%	96%	186	0	14.37
20-64	85%	96%	200	0	10.12
65+	87%	98%	120	0	9

What was the average wait for elective surgery over the last year? What were the shortest and longest wait times?

The average wait for elective surgery over the last year was 63 days. The shortest wait time was 0 days and the longest wait time was 258 days. The median time was 56 days.

I trust that this information meets your requirements. Waitemata DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare.

This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



Cath Cronin
Director Hospital Services
Waitemata District Health Board