



Hospital Services

North Shore Hospital Campus
Shakespeare Road, Takapuna
Private Bag 93-503, Takapuna
Auckland 0740
Telephone: 09 489 0527
Facsimile: 09 486 8339

29 October 2018



Dear 

Re: OIA request – Postnatal length of stay

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 4 October 2018 seeking the following of Waitemata District Health Board (DHB):

The length of stay a woman and her baby has in a birthing facility for each of the years 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 to date.

The length of inpatient post-natal stay for woman birthing at your DHB, grouped by the number of women staying less than six hours and the number staying longer than 48 hours, in 2017/18. Please provide separately for vaginal and non-vaginal births."

These questions were agreed on 9 October after contact from our Communications team to confirm the data being sought.

Waitemata DHB cares for the largest patient population of any DHB in New Zealand, currently standing at just over 630,000 people and operates two maternity facilities – one at North Shore Hospital and one at Waitakere Hospital.

In maternity, length of stay is calculated from the time the woman is admitted to the ward after the birth of her baby to the time the woman and her baby leave the hospital. The table below shows the average length of stay (in days) over the years you are requesting. The differences between the two Hospitals is explained by the fact that women with more complex pregnancies give birth at North Shore Hospital.

Table 1 – Average Length of stay by hospital site 2015–2018

Year	North Shore Hospital	Waitakere Hospital	Waitemata DHB combined
2015/16	1.60	1.40	1.51
2016/17	1.71	1.28	1.52
2017/18	1.67	1.28	1.49
2018/19 to Sept	1.65	1.27	1.47

Note: The MoH calculate length of stay from admission to the facility to discharge. The DHB calculate length of stay from admission to postnatal ward to discharge.

The number of women with early and later discharges is detailed in table 2. This data is for the last 12 months and is aggregated for both North Shore and Waitakere Hospitals. Timing of discharge is determined by a number of factors including clinical safety and maternal choice. Please note, these discharges include women who were transferred to other units (for example, if a higher level of care was required for the women and/or her baby) and women who were discharged to a primary birthing unit.

Table 2 - Number of women discharged by type of birth

	Vaginal Birth	Caesarean Birth
Less than 6 hours	750	N/A
Between 6 and 48 hours	2226	620
Longer than 48 hours	1127	1684

Waitemata DHB monitors satisfaction with length of stay on an ongoing basis and, overall, feedback received indicates that there is a high level of satisfaction with the length of stay.

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