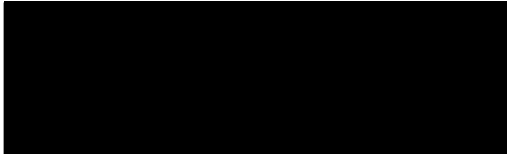




Hospital Services

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4 October 2018



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act request – Surgical Mesh

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received 25 September 2018, seeking information from Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) on:

1. *“How many surgeons at your DHB currently meet the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care credentialing guidelines?”*
2. *“If your DHB will continue to undertake urogynaecological surgeries involving surgical mesh?”*
3. *“How many urogynaecological mesh procedures were undertaken at your DHB in the past year or the most recent full year data is available? Can you break this information down by procedure type?”*

Waitemata DHB developed a credentialing process for the completion of urogynaecological surgeries involving surgical mesh in 2017. This process is consistent with the standards set out in the Australian Commission guidelines and was implemented in October 2017. Since this time, only surgeons who meet the credentialing criteria are able to undertake these procedures.

At present there are three surgeons who meet the credentialing guidelines.

Waitemata DHB intends to continue to undertake urogynaecological surgeries involving surgical mesh, but is no longer providing transobturator mid urethral slings. Only credentialed surgeons are able to undertake these procedures.

The table below outlines the number of urogynaecological mesh procedures undertaken at Waitemata DHB between September 2017 and September 2018. As requested, this is broken down by procedure type. Please note, information on non-mesh procedures completed is also detailed.

Stress Incontinence Surgery

| Procedure (Mesh) | (n) |
|------------------------------------|------------|
| Transobturator slings ¹ | 4 |
| Retropubic slings | 90 |
| Total | 94 |
| Procedure (Non-mesh) | (n) |
| Fascial slings | 2 |
| Bulking agents | 12 |
| Total | 14 |

Prolapse Surgery

| Procedure | (n) |
|------------------|------------|
| Sacrocolpopexy | 3 |
| Total | 3 |

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

¹ Procedures were completed prior to November 2017