



Waitematā

District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

Provider Healthcare Services

North Shore Hospital Campus
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28 August 2020



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Cerebral palsy and pain management

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, which was transferred to Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) by the Ministry of Health on 18 August 2020 seeking information on pain management services available to children and adults with cerebral palsy.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā DHB serves a population of more than 630,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas, the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,500 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing services to our own population, we are also the metropolitan Auckland provider of forensic psychiatry, child disability services, child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

You requested the following information:

1. What pain management services are available to children with cerebral palsy?

Children with cerebral palsy are cared for by a Waitematā DHB paediatrician and our community multidisciplinary team. These clinicians complete pain assessments and provide appropriate interventions including preventive positioning, specialised equipment and pain medication. Tertiary services at Starship Hospital are available for consultation and for referrals to their services.

Waitematā DHB children can be referred to Starship Hospital tertiary service for specialist and multidisciplinary paediatric pain services when required.

2. What pain management services are available to adults with cerebral palsy?

A multidisciplinary pain management service comprising specialist pain physicians, a specialist psychologist (Behaviour Pain Specialist) and specialist physiotherapists is available to all adult patients in the Waitematā DHB catchment area.

3. How are these services accessed?

Services are accessed via referral from a GP, other external medical specialists or one of our other hospital services.

4. Are these services available to all New Zealanders or only in some parts of the country?

Waitematā DHB only has information in relation to the services it provides. The Pain Service is available to all patients within the Waitematā DHB district.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community 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 consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS', written in a cursive style.

Mark Shepherd
Director Provider Healthcare Services
Waitematā District Health Board