



**Hospital Services**

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Dear 

**Re: OIA request – Emergency Department (ED) and Assessment and Diagnostic Unit (ADU) patient numbers**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received on 30 January 2021 seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) regarding ED and ADU patient numbers and waiting times.

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

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,500 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

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

**1. The number of patients who have been through the ED at Waitakere and North Shore Hospitals and not seen by a doctor since 2017 broken down by quarter**

The figures below show the number of patients who have been through the EDs at Waitakere and North Shore hospitals and have been seen either by a Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) or Clinical Nurse Practitioner (CNP) rather than by a doctor since 2017.

CNSs and CNPs are based in both hospitals' emergency departments. These nurses are specially trained in emergency medicine, they focus predominantly on the lower acuity patients and follow agreed guidelines and pathways of care under the direction and supervision of the lead Senior Medical Officer on duty for the day.

Please note that 2021 first quarter data is not available until the end of March.

**Patients seen by Clinical Nurse Specialists and Clinical Nurse Practitioners**

Year	Quarter	North Shore Hospital	Waitakere Hospital	Total
2017	Q1	1283	463	1746
	Q2	1329	671	2000
	Q3	1619	1109	2728
	Q4	1703	1394	3097
2018	Q1	1846	1551	3397
	Q2	1641	1296	2937
	Q3	2040	1903	3943
	Q4	1827	1526	3353
2019	Q1	1863	1810	3673
	Q2	1680	1844	3524
	Q3	1690	1630	3320
	Q4	1956	1531	3487
2020	Q1	1615	1488	3103
	Q2	1216	920	2136
	Q3	1403	1045	2448
	Q4	1986	1933	3919

**2. Average waiting time in the ADU at North Shore Hospital between patient arrival time to being moved to a ward since 2017 and again broken down by quarter.**

We do not record “waiting times” in ADU as patients are admitted to the unit in order to ensure the best treatment pathway and establish if they are able to either be treated and discharged or transferred to a ward. This is recorded as “length of stay”. We have, therefore, provided data on the average length of stay (LOS) for each quarter.

**Average length of stay at North Shore Hospital’s ADU since 2017**

Year	Quarter	Average LOS (hours)
2017	Q1	12.14
	Q2	12.38
	Q3	11.27
	Q4	10.53
2018	Q1	11.87
	Q2	12.06
	Q3	12.94
	Q4	11.69
2019	Q1	10.72
	Q2	11.46
	Q3	11.48
	Q4	10.49
2020	Q1	10.12
	Q2	11.53
	Q3	14.48
	Q4	14.47

I trust that this information meets your requirements. Waitemātā 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

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**Director of Hospital Services**  
**Waitemātā District Health Board**