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7 April 2021



Dear 

**Re: OIA request - Patients seen in the last two years in relation to the use of nitrous oxide**

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 16 March 2021 seeking information about patients seen in the last two years in relation to the use of nitrous oxide at Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

You requested the following information:

- 1. The number of people per month over the last 12 months who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.*
- 2. The number of people per month over the last 12 months who have been admitted to hospital as a result of the use of nitrous oxide.*
- 3. The age of people per month over the last 12 months who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.*
- 4. The gender of the people per month over the last 12 months who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.*
- 5. The ethnicity of people per month over the last 12 months who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.*

You contacted us again on 17 March 2021 to request the following:

***Can I please extend the timeline from 12 months to two years in regard to all of my questions?***

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 8,600 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 people per month over the last two years who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.**

Waitemata DHB treats around 125,000 patients who present at our emergency departments each year. The number of patients seen in relation to the use of nitrous oxide is very low when seen in this context.

Numbers lower than three have been withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982 to protect the privacy of natural persons.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of this decision by the Ombudsman. Information about how to seek a review is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Year	Month	Total	
<b>2019</b>	March	6	
	April	9(2)(a)	
	May	4	
	June	9(2)(a)	
	July	3	
	August	5	
	September	9(2)(a)	
	October	3	
	November	9(2)(a)	
	December	6	
	<b>2020</b>	January	3
		February	3
March		6	
April		9(2)(a)	
May		7	
June		5	
July		3	
August		5	
September		4	
October		9(2)(a)	
November		3	
December		9(2)(a)	
<b>2021</b>	January	6	
	February	4	

**2. The number of people per month over the last two years who have been admitted to hospital as a result of the use of nitrous oxide.**

Year	Month	Total Patients	Total Admitted
<b>2019</b>	March	6	
	April	9(2)(a)	
	May	4	
	June	9(2)(a)	
	July	3	9(2)(a)
	August	5	9(2)(a)
	September	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)
	October	3	9(2)(a)

Year	Month	Total Patients	Total Admitted
	November	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)
	December	6	4
<b>2020</b>	January	3	
	February	3	9(2)(a)
	March	6	3
	April	9(2)(a)	
	May	7	3
	June	5	9(2)(a)
	July	3	9(2)(a)
	August	5	
	September	4	9(2)(a)
	October	9(2)(a)	
	November	3	9(2)(a)
	December	9(2)(a)	
<b>2021</b>	January	6	9(2)(a)
	February	4	

3. The age of people per month over the last two years who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.

Year	Month	10-19 Yrs	20-29 Yrs	30-39 Yrs	40-49 Yrs	50-59 Yrs	60-69 Yrs	70-79 Yrs	80-89 Yrs
<b>2019</b>	March		4	9(2)(a)					
	April			9(2)(a)					
	May			3	9(2)(a)				
	June			9(2)(a)					
	July		9(2)(a)				9(2)(a)		9(2)(a)
	August	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)		9(2)(a)		9(2)(a)	
	September		9(2)(a)					9(2)(a)	
	October			9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)		9(2)(a)		
	November				9(2)(a)				
	December		9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)			
<b>2020</b>	January	9(2)(a)		9(2)(a)				9(2)(a)	
	February		9(2)(a)		9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)			
	March		5	9(2)(a)					
	April			9(2)(a)					
	May	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)			9(2)(a)	
	June		9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)		
	July		9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)				
	August		9(2)(a)		9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)			
	September		9(2)(a)		9(2)(a)				9(2)(a)
	October					9(2)(a)			
	November		9(2)(a)		9(2)(a)		9(2)(a)		
	December				9(2)(a)				
<b>2021</b>	January		9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	3				
	February		9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)		9(2)(a)			

4. The gender of the people per month over the last two years who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.

Year	Month	Female	Male	
<b>2019</b>	March	9(2)(a)	4	
	April	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	
	May	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	
	June	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	
	July	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	
	August	9(2)(a)	3	
	September	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	
	October	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	
	November		9(2)(a)	
	December	5	9(2)(a)	
	<b>2020</b>	January	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)
		February	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)
March		5	9(2)(a)	
April		9(2)(a)		
May		9(2)(a)	5	
June		9(2)(a)	4	
July		9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	
August		3	9(2)(a)	
September		9(2)(a)	3	
October			9(2)(a)	
November		9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	
December		9(2)(a)		
<b>2021</b>	January	9(2)(a)	5	
	February	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	

5. The ethnicity of people per month over the last two years who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.

Year	Month	European	Māori	Other Ethnicity	Pacific Peoples	
<b>2019</b>	March	4	9(2)(a)		9(2)(a)	
	April	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)			
	May	9(2)(a)	3			
	June	9(2)(a)				
	July	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)			
	August	4	9(2)(a)			
	September	9(2)(a)				
	October	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)			
	November		9(2)(a)			
	December	5	9(2)(a)			
	<b>2020</b>	January	3			
		February	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)		
March		4	9(2)(a)			
April			9(2)(a)			

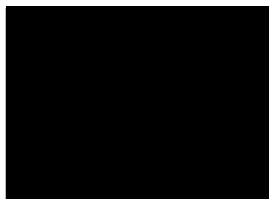
Year	Month	European	Māori	Other Ethnicity	Pacific Peoples
	May	4	3		
	June	5			
	July	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)		
	August	4	9(2)(a)		
	September	3	9(2)(a)		
	October		9(2)(a)		
	November	3			
	December	9(2)(a)		9(2)(a)	
<b>2021</b>	January	5	9(2)(a)		
	February	3	9(2)(a)		

I trust that this information we have been able to provide 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



**Executive Director Hospital Services  
Waitematā District Health Board**