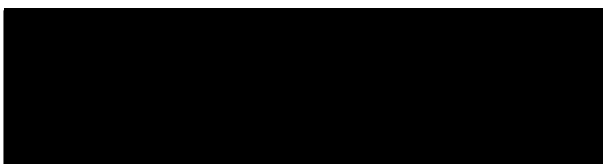




Hospital Services

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6 March 2019



Dear [REDACTED]

Re: Official Information Act request – antidepressants

Thank you for your Official Information Act request of 18 February seeking details from Waitemata District Health Board (DHB) as follows:

- *all information totalling the number of patients prescribed antidepressants in 2018. Please include the age and gender of the patient(s)*

Before responding to your specific questions, the following contextual information may assist your understanding of Waitemata DHB and the services we provide.

Population and services:

- Our DHB serves a resident population of more than 630,000 people – the largest DHB population in the country. In addition to caring for patients domiciled within our own district, Waitemata DHB is also the Northern Region provider of forensic psychiatry and the Auckland provider of community alcohol and drug services.

Completeness and accuracy of the data:

- The majority of people who receive antidepressants while admitted to hospital have existing community prescriptions for these which continue after discharge. We anticipate that data for inpatient use is a duplicated subset of the community data provided by Technical Advisory Services (TAS). The figures should not be added together.
- The data provided below has been gathered from our electronic prescribing system which is used by the majority of inpatient services including medical, surgical, rehabilitation and mental health wards. While it has not been possible to gather data from admissions using paper charts during the 2018 calendar year for this request, patient numbers and details should already be captured in community prescription data for the Waitemata catchment, as outlined above.
- Total figures may vary according to whether data was collected for those identified as domiciled in the Waitemata district, or for all individuals who have obtained their prescription supplies from within the Waitemata catchment, i.e. of the 358,655 prescriptions dispensed for Waitemata-domiciled patients in 2018, 34,565 were dispensed in other parts of the country.

Interpretation:

- Use of medication classified as an antidepressant does not indicate a diagnosis of depression. Some antidepressants are first-line treatments for other conditions e.g. neuropathic pain (see <https://bpac.org.nz/bpj/2016/may/pain.aspx>). There were 14,559 outpatient prescriptions for nortriptyline and amitriptyline identified for patients domiciled in the Waitemata catchment that included details of the dose. 88% of these were at doses used for neuropathic pain rather than depression.

Responses to your specific questions are provided below. Please note this information relates to inpatients only and we understand the community information will be sent to you separately by TAS, which has contacted you separately in relation to this.

Waitemata DHB patients prescribed antidepressants in 2018*

Age Range	Sex	Cyclic and related Agents	Other Antidepressants	Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors	Totals
10-19	Female	16	12	56	84
	Male	6	2	27	35
20-29	Female	48	58	164	270
	Male	19	38	81	138
30-39	Female	85	58	162	305
	Male	25	21	69	115
40-49	Female	122	79	219	420
	Male	64	64	141	269
50-59	Female	145	101	242	488
	Male	120	72	177	369
60-69	Female	224	85	276	585
	Male	133	92	176	401
70-79	Female	323	132	386	841
	Male	154	106	263	523
80-89	Female	244	167	340	751
	Male	119	82	194	395
90+	Female	67	33	88	188
	Male	26	14	45	85
Total		1940	1216	3106	6262

*Data has been provided in 10-year age bands to reduce the risk of individual patients being identifiable

Drug Groups	Specific antidepressant name:
Cyclic and Related Agents	Amitriptyline
	Clomipramine hydrochloride
	Dosulepin [Dothiepin] hydrochloride
	Doxepin hydrochloride
	Imipramine hydrochloride
	Maprotiline hydrochloride
	Nortriptyline hydrochloride
Other Antidepressants (includes MAOIs and related antidepressants)	Phenelzine sulphate
	Tranylcypromine sulphate
	Moclobemide
	Mirtazapine
	Venlafaxine
	Duloxetine
Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitors	Citalopram hydrobromide
	Escitalopram
	Fluoxetine hydrochloride
	Paroxetine
	Sertraline
	Fluvoxamine

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 them.

I trust that this information meets your requirements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cath Cronin', written in a cursive style.

Cath Cronin
Director Hospital Services
Waitemata District Health Board

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