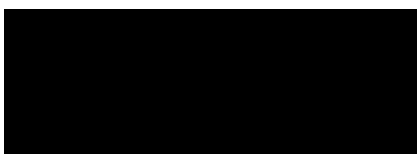


9 February 2022



Dear 

Re: OIA request – Funding of bone density scans for endocrinology patients

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received as a transfer from the Ministry of Health on 12 January, seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about DEXA (dual-energy X-ray absorptiometry) scans.

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 are able to provide the following information:

For each DHB (except for Capital & Coast) can you please tell me if publicly funded bone density (DEXA) scans are available for:

1. all relevant endocrinology patients

All referrals are triaged by two of our clinicians and patients who meet the criteria are accepted for a scan. All accepted requests, for patients who are eligible to receive free publicly-funded healthcare in New Zealand, are funded by Waitematā DHB.

2. any patient seen in a relevant subspecialty (yes/no adequate detail for both questions). The scan could be provided in private but the question is about who pays - the DHB or the patient. If some patients would be funded (e.g. Community Service Card-holders) please provide this information.

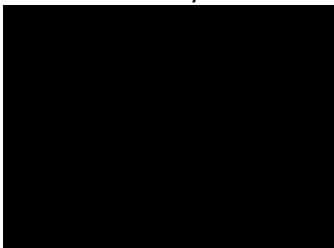
Yes, patients from relevant subspecialties may also be accepted for scans. These scans are also funded by Waitematā DHB for people who are eligible to receive publicly-funded healthcare in New Zealand.

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



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