



29 July 2020



Dear 

Re: OIA request – Breast reconstruction

Thank you for your Official Information Act request, received 7 July 2020, seeking information about the breast reconstruction wait list from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

You requested the following information:

1. The number of clients who received immediate breast reconstruction following a mastectomy in 2019/20

The table below is for all Waitematā DHB patients who have had reconstructive surgery immediately following a mastectomy. Waitematā DHB patients are also seen at Auckland DHB and Counties Manukau DHB and these numbers are included.

Financial year	Waitematā Population
2019/20	42
Total	42

2. The average breast reconstruction wait time for 2019/20

It is not possible to provide an average wait time for breast reconstruction as some patients will have a staged reconstruction which requires more than one procedure. Therefore, the time between procedures varies, depending on the clinical procedure. There is also variation from patient-to-patient because some women take time to decide whether and when to proceed with breast reconstruction.

3. The number of women currently on the waitlist for reconstruction following a mastectomy

The table below is for all Waitematā DHB patients currently on the surgical wait list for delayed reconstructive surgery following a mastectomy.

These patients are seen at Waitematā DHB and Counties Manukau DHB. Counties Manukau DHB, as the Northern Region Plastic service, provides the complex reconstructive surgery for these patients.

Please note that some of these patients are on the waiting list for staged reconstructive surgery and may have already had some procedures done. They may now be waiting for subsequent surgery to take place.

Financial Year	Waitematā Population
2020/21	53
Total	53

4. The number of women who did not meet waitlist criteria

All individuals diagnosed with breast cancer where reconstructive breast surgery is clinically appropriate meet waitlist criteria.

5. An outline of criteria that guides/governs whether a woman seeking breast reconstruction is accepted or denied treatment.

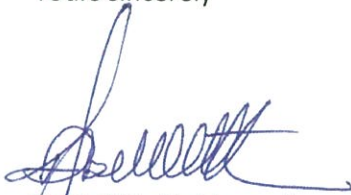
All Waitematā DHB patients with breast cancer who are eligible for publically funded health services are offered clinically appropriate reconstructive breast surgery. When a patient chooses to proceed with breast reconstruction, all of the options - including delayed and immediate breast reconstruction - and the potential risks and benefits, are discussed so that the patient can choose what is best for them.

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



Dr Debbie Holdsworth
Director Funding
Waitematā District Health Board