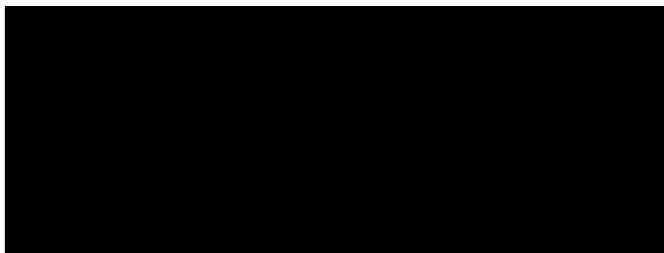


18 December 2019



Dear 

Re: OIA request – chronic pain services

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 26 November 2019 seeking information about chronic pain services at Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

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

Are chronic pain services separately funded by the DHB? If so, please provide data on:

• **Budget and actual expenditure in 2017/18 and 2018/19**

Chronic pain service	Budget	Actual
FY 17/18	\$671,373	\$497,707
FY 18/19	\$680,014	\$594,320

The difference between budgeted expenditure and actual expenditure is due to current vacancies in the Senior Medical Officer and Psychology workforce. Despite the vacancies, the service continues to provide pain management to all the patients that are referred to the service.

• **Number of pain specialists/consultants employed by the DHB**

Waitematā DHB employs two pain specialists/consultants who both work part-time, currently making up 0.8 of a full-time equivalent (FTE) position. Our budgeted FTE for pain specialists is 0.9 FTE.

• **Number of patients (both non-ACC and ACC patients) who received services in 2017/18 and 2018/19**

We do not accept ACC patients but can supply the following information about non-ACC patients:

Non-ACC patients	
FY 17/18	572
FY 18/19	565

• **Average waiting times for an appointment following referral from a GP, or other health practitioner**

The average wait time for a patient following referral to the chronic pain service from a GP or other health practitioner is 73 days.

- **Makeup and dedicated FTE of the multidisciplinary team workforce**

Position	Budget	Actual	Vacancy
Medical	0.9 FTE	0.8 FTE	0.1 FTE
Nursing	1.7 FTE	1.6 FTE	0.1 FTE
Allied Health	2.4 FTE	2.2 FTE	0.2 FTE
Management/Admin	1.0 FTE	1.0 FTE	
Total	6.0 FTE	5.6 FTE	0.4 FTE

- **What steps is the DHB taking to improve chronic pain services?**

The DHB continues to seek opportunities to improve the care we are delivering to patients in the area of chronic pain. We deliver services that provide equitable patient access and health outcomes, ensuring that the care provided is delivered in a clinically and culturally competent manner for our patients and their whānau. This includes access to interpreting or support services through Māori, Pacific and Asian Health Services.

In addition, the DHB undertakes research into pain management post-orthopaedic joint surgery.

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



Debbie Holdsworth
Acting Director Hospital Services
Waitematā District Health Board