



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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23 July 2018

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RE Official information request WCDHB 9162

We refer to your email dated 20 June 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB.

1. **What is the average waiting time, as well as longest and shortest individual wait times, for an initial appointment with the following specialists – oncologists, neurologists, cardiologists and gynaecologists – over the last six months?**

Waiting times from initial referral to First Specialist Assessment for these four specialities during the past six months were as follows in **Table one** (below):

Table one:

Specialty	Average Wait time to First Specialist Assessment (days)	Shortest Individual Wait Time (days)	Longest Individual Wait Time (days)
Oncology	8.88	0	29
Neurology	117.45	11	175
Cardiology	44.59	8	84
Gynaecology	54.69	0	266*

*We note that in the case of gynaecology, an extreme outlier case relates to one patient who had several “did not attend” at their booked appointments and who was given subsequent appointment changes as a consequence before being seen, resulting in the longest individual wait for the specialty appearing to be significantly longer than usual.

2. **What percentage of patients arriving at the emergency department are admitted, discharged or transferred within six hours - over the last six months and the last six weeks?**

The West Coast DHB achieved results of 97.9% of patients admitted, discharged or transferred from Grey Base Emergency Department within six hours during the six-month period 1 January to 30 June 2018, and 99.2% in the last six weeks of that period (six weeks 20 May to 30 June 2018). In comparison, the national target for this measure during the period was 95% within 6 hours.

3. **What percentage of hospital beds were occupied for each of the last six months?**

Excluding long-stay beds for age residential care, the overall percentage occupancy rate over the past six months to 30 June 2018 for our acute inpatient beds at Grey Base Hospital (including medical, surgical, paediatric, maternity, and mental health beds) was 66.7 %; with that of the GP-level medical and maternity beds at Buller being 40.9%, and that for the GP-level medical beds Reefton being 20.8%.

4. **What percentage of people referred to mental health services were seen within three weeks? What was the average, longest and shortest wait times? Could this be broken down into age groups 0-19 years, 19-64 years and 65+ years over the last six months?**

In all, 83.2% of people referred for mental health services on the West Coast were seen within three weeks.

Please refer to **Table two** (below) for the most up to date West Coast DHB Mental Health non-urgent waiting times information April 2017 – March 2018 – *Report run 18/06/2018*. This is broken down into waiting time clusters for the age cohort groups 0-19 years, 20-64 years, and 65+ years as requested.

Table two: West Coast DHB Mental Health non-urgent waiting times information April 2017 – March 2018 – Report run 18/06/2018.

Waiting times by Age Cohort	Age 0-19 Years Old	Age 20-64 Years Old	Age 65+ Years
<= 3 weeks	70.4% (133 people)	90.6% (230 people)	97.4% (37 people)
3 – 8 weeks	22.8% (43 people)	6.7% (17 people)	2.64% (1 person)
>8 weeks	6.9% (13 people)	2.8% (7 people)	0
Total	100% (189 people)	100% (254 people)	100% (38 people)

Please note: The over-65 year age figures above represent only those clients being reported through PRIMHD – the Ministry of Health’s single national mental health and addiction information collection of service activity and outcomes data for health consumers. Due to implementation of a new patient management system, not all 65+ year olds activity is currently being submitted in PRIMHD.

5. **What was the average wait for elective surgery over the last year? What were the shortest and longest wait times?**

Waiting times for our various elective surgical specialities delivered at the West Coast DHB during the past six months are outlined below. We note that this excludes surveillance patients who are on a planned schedule to be routinely endoscoped for periodic review over time (e.g.: surveillance colonoscopies for monitoring any occurrence or development of bowel cancers where there are known or exhibited risk factors for individual people). Elective surgery includes: Dental, General Surgery, Gynaecology, Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics, Paediatric Surgery, Plastic Surgery and Urology.

Shortest wait time - < 7 days*
Average wait time - 55.8 days
Longest wait time - 210 days

***Note:** People on the elective wait list are not usually seen within seven days. If they are seen in less than seven days they would be classified as acute or arranged. The shortest wait time outside <7 days was 13 days.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the West Coast DHB website ten working days after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support