



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office
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23 August 2018

[REDACTED]

RE: Official information request WCDHB 9177

We refer to your letter dated 24 July 2018 and received on 27 July 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding services experienced in our DHB by people with Multiple Sclerosis, with a particular focus on Neurology services. Specifically Waiting Times.

1. **What is the current waiting time for:**
 - a) **First specialist neurology outpatients' appointment?**

There are 25 patients currently waiting for an outpatient Neurology appointment with an average wait time of 93 days.

- b) **Follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment?**

Patients requiring follow up appointments are booked as per the requested time frame by the specialist.

- c) **Outpatient MRI?**

The West Coast DHB does not have an MRI machine and therefore patients requiring this need to travel to Christchurch. Appointments are available to them within 1 day for urgent referrals or within 2-3 weeks for routine referrals, however patients often choose to combine travel with other appointments and this can extend the "wait" time.

- d) **Outpatient infusion clinic appointment?**

Patients referred for an infusion are currently booked in as per the treatment protocol advised by the clinician in the referral i.e. there is no waiting time as such.

- e) **Outpatient Psychotherapy appointment?**

There are no specific psychology services within West Coast DHB for Patients with MS, however patients with psychological counselling needs (as opposed to psychotherapy) can be referred to the Brief Intervention Counselling service offered by the West Coast Primary Health Organisation. The

current wait time for an appointment with this service is four weeks.

f) **Outpatient Physiotherapy appointment?**

Patients referred to Physiotherapy are currently being seen within 4-6 weeks.

g) **Outpatient Occupational Therapy appointment?**

Patients referred to Occupational Therapy are currently being seen within 1-2 weeks where the referral is classed as 'urgent' or within three months for routine referrals.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support