

19 August 2020

Dear [REDACTED]

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2020077

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 22 June 2020 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

STAFFING NUMBERS:

- 1. How many Neurologists do you have on staff (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**
Hawke's Bay DHB has two /2.0 FTE Neurologists on staff.
- 2. How many Neurologists are Multiple Sclerosis Specialists on staff (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**
Both HBDHB Neurologists are generalists and have extensive expertise and confidence in treating Multiple Sclerosis patients.
- 3. How many Neurologists on staff see patients with Multiple Sclerosis**
Two, refer to response provided to questions 1 and 2 above.
- 4. How many Neurology Nurses do you have on staff (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**
Hawke's Bay DHB has two/1.2 FTE neurology nurses; one/0.4 FTE outpatient clinic staff nurse and one/0.6 FTE Neurology Clinical Nurse Specialist (Parkinson's Disease).
- 5. How many MS Nurse Specialists are on Staff (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**
The 0.6 FTE CNS Neurology also functions as HBDHB's Multiple Sclerosis nurse with the majority of their time spent working with Multiple Sclerosis patients.

WAITING TIMES

What is the current waiting time for a/an

a) First Neurology outpatients' appointment

The current wait time for Multiple Sclerosis patients to attend one of the dedicated Multiple Sclerosis clinics is generally no more than six weeks. If the triaging clinician considers the patient should be seen earlier, they are able to be scheduled for an appointment within two weeks.

b) Follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment

Follow up appointments are held as planned by the Neurologist, dependent upon the outcome of the first appointment. Urgent slots are held in the Multiple Sclerosis clinic for patients with suspected relapses and for patients with issues relating to their Disease

Modifying Therapies (DMTs).

c) Outpatient MRI

For routine referrals (based on clinical need) the average number of days between a MRI referral being received and the MRI report being approved is 63 days.

Note: Over the past nine months waiting times have been impacted by both industrial action (affecting radiology services in late 2019) and the COVID-19 pandemic.

d) Outpatient infusion appointment

Outpatient appointments are defined by the clinical protocol schedule recommended to manage the therapy administration.

I trust this information meets your needs. If you would like any further information or clarification please phone me. If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsman, phone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Hawke's Bay DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



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