

24 February 2020



Dear 

## **YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2020010**

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 14 January 2020 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

### **Re: Colonoscopies for the time period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019.**

1. *Breakdown in terms of numbers for each type of GP referral that were declined and accepted?*
  - 1A. *Non urgent referrals*
  - 1B. *Urgent referrals*
2. *Breakdown in terms of numbers for each type of specialist referral that were declined and accepted?*
  - 2A. *Non urgent referrals*
  - 2B. *Urgent referrals*
  - 2C. *Emergency department referrals*

Hawke's Bay DHB is unable to provide a breakdown of this information. Referrals, irrespective of origin, are made to a specialist service for First Specialist Assessment (FSA). Referrers do not determine urgency for most cases, nor do they determine the procedure required. However, any referral information provided does inform the decision-making of DHB specialists.

#### **GP and Specialist Referrals**

- 2347 referrals received within time period
- Zero declined

#### **Urgent/ED Referrals**

- 313 referrals received within time period
- Zero declined

3. *Once the following referral has been accepted how long before seeing a specialist?*
  - 3A. *Non urgent referrals*
  - 3B. *Urgent referrals*
  - 3C. *Emergency department referrals*

The average time from receipt of the referral to the First Specialist Assessment (FSA) for a colonoscopy procedure is 10 days for urgent referrals and 48 days for non-urgent referrals.

4. *How long from the patient first presenting to receiving a colonoscopy and if cancer detected at what stage?*
  - 4A. *Non urgent referrals*
  - 4B. *Urgent referrals*
  - 4C. *Emergency department referrals*
  - 4D. *Specialist referral*
  - 4E. *GP referral*

Hawke's Bay DHB is unable to readily extract data on an individual's diagnostic results from coding data in regards to the above question.

5. *How many colonoscopies was your DHB funded for the time period from 1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019 and how many were carried out?*

For the period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019, 2289 colonoscopies were undertaken.

There is no annual or specific number of colonoscopies funded; the cost of these is allocated within the overall Gastroenterology operational budget.

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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