

24 February 2020



Dear 

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2020007

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: Grommet insertions for the time period from 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

Please note: referrals, irrespective of origin, are made to a specialist service for 'assessment'. These referrals are not listed as 'urgent' or 'non-urgent', nor do the referrers determine the procedure required. Instead, referral information provided helps to inform the decision-making process of DHB specialists of each case. Therefore, the DHB is unable to provide a breakdown of numbers, as requested above. However, the DHB can provide total referrals received within this time period.

GP and Specialist Referrals:

- A total of 199 referrals were received within the requested time period.
- Zero were declined.

Urgent/ED Referrals

- No referrals were received within the requested time period.

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

Breakdowns, as explained above, are unable to be provided. However, the average time, from receipt of referral to the First Specialist Assessment (FSA), during this time period was 196 days.

4. *How long from each of the types of referrals being accepted to have grommet insertions?*
- 4A. *Non urgent referrals*
 - 4B. *Urgent referrals*
 - 4C. *Emergency department referrals*

The decision to undertake a grommet insertion procedure is made at the FSA appointment. Each case is different. The timeframe to complete the procedure may be affected by clinical considerations, individual patient/whānau considerations and health status.

The average time from FSA to the grommet procedure being undertaken, during this time period, was 277 days.

5. *How many grommet insertions was your DHB funded for the time period from 1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019 and many did you carry out?*

There is no annual or specific number of grommet insertions funded; the cost of these are allocated within the overall Ear, Nose and Throat Planned Care operational budget. For the period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019, 83 grommet insertions were performed.

6. *What is the criteria for being eligible for a grommet insertion?*

Hawke's Bay DHB clinicians follow international guidelines, consistent with best practice, when assessing whether patients require grommet insertion. In particular, HBDHB clinicians will refer to the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence clinical guidelines: <https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/cg60> .

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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