

24 February 2020



Dear 

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2020008

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: Information seeking for hip replacements for the time period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

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

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

Once a referral is received, the DHB undertakes a triage assessment process prior to booking a First Specialist Assessment (FSA) appointment. This may include an appointment with a physiotherapist, or additional scans (X-rays, MRI etc). If after the triage assessment a referral meets the criteria for FSA, the referrals are coded urgent and non-urgent.

The average time (in days) for the period requested was:

Urgent Referrals

25 days to be seen by a specialist

Non-urgent Referrals

76 days to be seen by a specialist

4. *How long for each of the following types of hip replacement referrals to have a scan?*
 - 4A. *Non urgent referrals*
 - 4B. *Urgent referrals*
 - 4C. *Emergency department referrals*
 - 4D. *GP referrals*
 - 4E. *Specialist referrals*

Hawke's Bay DHB is unable to provide this information – scans, X-rays, CT or MRI may have occurred prior to the referral and/or at other facilities.

5. *How long for each of the types of hip replacement referrals being accepted for surgery?*
 - 5A. *Non urgent referrals*
 - 5B. *Urgent referrals*
 - 5C. *Emergency department referrals*
 - 5D. *GP referral*
 - 5E. *Specialist referral*

The DHB is unable to provide data specific to referral and 'acceptance' of surgery but can provide you with the average time from FSA to actual surgery day itself.

The average time from FSA to hip replacement surgery for non-urgent referral was 157 days during the requested time period. The average time from FSA to hip replacement surgery for urgent referrals was 56 days during the requested time period.

*For reasons already given, (refer response to questions 1 and 2 above), HBDHB is unable to provide data for 5C, 5D and 5E

6. *How many hip replacement operations did you have funding for in the financial year 1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019 and how many were carried out?*

Please note, there are no annual, or specific number of hip replacement procedures funded. The cost is allocated within the overall Orthopaedic Planned Care operational budget. For the period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019, 184 hip replacements were undertaken.

Re: Information for knee replacement operations for the time period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

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

3. Once the following knee replacement referral has been accepted how long before seeing a specialist?

3A. Non urgent referrals

3B. Urgent referrals

3C. Emergency department referrals

Once a referral is received, the DHB undertakes a triage assessment process prior to booking a First Specialist Assessment (FSA) appointment. This may include an appointment with a physiotherapist, or additional scans (X-rays, MRI etc). If after the triage assessment a referral meets the criteria for FSA, the referrals are coded urgent and non-urgent.

If a referral is accepted for a knee replacement assessment, the referrals are coded urgent and non-urgent. The average time (in days) for the period requested was:

Urgent Referrals

37 days to be seen by a specialist

Non-urgent referrals

67 days to be seen by a specialist

4. How long for each of the following types of knee replacement referrals to have a scan?

4A. Non urgent referrals

4B. Urgent referrals

4C. Emergency department referrals

4D. GP referrals

4E. Specialist referrals

Hawke's Bay DHB is unable to provide this information – scans, X-rays, CT or MRI may have occurred prior to the referral and/or at other facilities.

5. How long for each of the types of knee replacement referrals being accepted for surgery?

5A. Non urgent referrals

5B. Urgent referrals

5C. Emergency department referrals

5D. GP referral

5E. Specialist referral

The DHB is unable to provide data specific to referral and 'acceptance' of surgery but can provide you with the average time from FSA to actual surgery day itself.

Non Urgent Referrals

The average time from FSA to knee replacement surgery for non-urgent referrals was 160 days within the time period .

Urgent Referrals

The average time period from FSA to knee replacement surgery for urgent referrals was 53 days within the time period.

6. *How many knee replacement operations did you have funding for in the financial year 1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019 and how many were carried out?*

There is no annual, or specific number of knee replacement procedures funded. The cost is allocated within the overall Orthopaedic Planned Care operational budget. For the period 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019, 141 knee replacements were undertaken.

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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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR PROVIDER SERVICES
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