

Corporate Services



3 September 2021

(name and contact details redacted)

Dear (name redacted)

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021093

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 6 August 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

- ***Please provide the current wait time for an urgent, semi urgent and routine transvaginal ultrasound (or just ultrasound generally if your data does not make the distinction), and***
- ***the criteria for evaluating the urgency of a request (general, or ovarian if you have) and***
- ***include the current Health Pathways criteria for your DHB for ovarian cancer.***

In response to your questions, Hawke's Bay DHB has interpreted your questions as providing waiting time data from date of referral to date of approval for ultrasound. Please refer to information below for current wait times (2021 to current date).

In response to question one Hawke's Bay DHB prioritises referrals based on clinical information provided by the referrer (usually general practitioner).

All ultrasound in the first instance are vetted by qualified sonographers and then prioritised according to clinical information that is supplied.

If the referrer believes their patient requires to be seen sooner than prioritised, they have access to address their concerns directly with a radiologist and the radiologist may then adjust the priority of the patient, based on additional information provided.

At present Hawke's Bay DHB meets all referral timeframe goals for Priority 1 and 2 patients and just shy of the 'within 14 day period' for Priority 3 patients. Priority 4 patients are being seen on average within 158 days.

Referral timeline goals are listed below:

- Priority 1 – within 2 hours/acute
- Priority 2 – within 48 hours
- Priority 3 – within 14 days
- Priority 4 – routine, within 6 weeks.

C H I E F E X E C U T I V E ' S O F F I C E

Hawke's Bay District Health Board

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Waitlist times for Priority 4, classified as routine are waiting longer than normal due to demand from patients requiring more urgent and acute screening. Patients who have been prioritised as routine and whose condition worsen are recommended to go back to their GP to be re-referred urgently.

Hawke's Bay DHBs radiology team is working with Planning and Funding to look for alternative solutions, such as outsourcing to help reduce the wait times for routine demand.

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



Chris Ash
Chief Executive Officer

cc: *Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIAs@moh.govt.nz*
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