

Corporate Services



16 September 2021

(name and contact details redacted)

Dear (name redacted)

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021096

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 10 August 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

All original communications including briefings, reports, memos, aides memoirs, cabinet papers and texts regarding the following information:

- ***The utilisation rate for, outpatient or day stay attendance for IV chemotherapy, expressed as a. patients per chair per day (plus definition of a chair day) b. occupancy expressed as percentage of time on average that a chemo chair is occupied, annually for the past 5 years***
- ***Average waiting time for first treatment of, outpatient or day stay attendance for day stay IV chemotherapy, expressed in days per year for the past 5 years***
- ***Number of, outpatient or day stay attendance for IV chemotherapy, nursing staff expressed as FTEs annually for the past 5 years in absolute numbers and then per capita***
- ***Number of oncologists managing, outpatient or day stay attendance for IV chemotherapy, expressed as FTEs annually for the past 5 years in absolute numbers and then per capita***
- ***Number of people who have had, outpatient or day stay attendance IV chemotherapy, expressed as total, Maori (absolute and as a percentage of the total) and Non Maori (absolute numbers and as a percentage of the total), annually for the past 5 years***

Hawke's Bay District Health Board's oncology services are subcontracted through MidCentral District Health Board's cancer centre.

Chemotherapy treatment is available in Hawke's Bay in most cases. In certain circumstances some patients require treatment in Palmerston North.

MidCentral Health has commonly held the data you have requested. However, there has been a transition in patient management record systems which do not interface. Therefore, obtaining this specific data for the period requested (for the past five years) is declined under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act, due to substantial manual collation and research that would be required.

Hawke's Bay DHB can, however, provide data calculating average daily minutes used between 1 January 2021 and 1 September 2021 which has been captured on the new reportable system.

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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- The utilisation rate since 1 January 2021 is 68%.
- A chair has been defined as an 8.5hr day utilised at 85% (approx 7.225 hours).
- Eight chairs (more specifically five chairs and three beds) have been modelled.

Hawke's Bay DHB is unable to answer with full accuracy what the average waiting time for first IV chemotherapy treatments due to the nature of patient referral pathways. In many cases a patient may have attended outpatient appointments before IV chemotherapy treatment commences. Therefore, under section 18 (g) of the Official Information Act relating to information not held decline to provide a response to this portion of your request due to extensive collation and research as individual patient records would need to be reviewed.

Records show that since 1 January 2021 there have been 3349 treatments for Hawke's Bay patients. Of those, 83% represent non Māori patients and 17% represent and Māori.

Hawke's Bay DHB Oncologists are employed by Mid Central. Hawke's Bay DHB has two permanent Oncologists based in Hawke's Bay, one whom is 1.1 FTE for the past five years and is now 0.9 FTE from March 2021, and one whom is 0.6 FTE since June 2020.

The number of nursing staff for outpatient or day stay attendance for IV chemotherapy for the past five financial years are as follows:

2017/2018 – 6.2 FTE
2018/2019 – 6.9 FTE
2019/2020 – 6.7 FTE
2020/2021 – 6.6 FTE
2021/2022 – 7.1 FTE

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 Operating Officer

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