

1 October 2021

[REDACTED]
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Dear [REDACTED]

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021112

I refer to your Official Information Act request transferred in full to district health boards by the Ministry of Health on 9 September 2021. The information you requested and HBDHB's response is provided below:

1. *What is the Medical Day-Stay (non-oncology) infusion capacity where capacity is defined as the maximum number of infusions that can occur at any given time?*

The Gastroenterology department administer biologic infusions for medical day stay and can accommodate up to four infusions at a time. Medical sub-speciality (non-oncology) in Villa 6 at Hawke's Bay Hospital can accommodate up to seven infusions at a time.

2. *Average number of infusions per week?*

The average number of infusions per week are between 10-12 infusions for Gastroenterology department and between six and eight per week in medical sub-specialities.

3. *Opening days & hours?*

Opening days and hours are Monday through Friday, 0800 – 1630 in the Gastroenterology department. Villa 6 is open Monday through Friday from 0800 to 1630. However, medical sub-speciality (non-oncology) is generally only booked on a Monday due to Oncology capacity.

4. *Which products are most commonly infused (top ten)?*

The most common biologic infusions are Infliximab and Ferric Carboxmaltose in the Gastroenterology unit and medical sub-specialities most commonly infused products are Rituximab, Infliximab, Natalizumab, Ocrelizumab, Cyclophosphamide, No. 1 Tocilizumab and Fingolimod.

5. *Does the DHB run satellite infusion services outside of its main hospitals? If so, in what locations?*

Hawke's Bay District Health Board does not run satellite infusion services outside of its main hospital.

6. How often (percentage of total patients) is travel assistance (e.g. buses, shuttles, taxis, or monetary assistance) to attend infusions provided to patients? What are the monthly costs?

Nil. All patients arrive via their own means of transport. The DHB offers free bus transport for all outpatients from anywhere on the goBay bus network to and from their hospital appointments.

7. How often do patients not attend infusion appointments as scheduled?

Patients generally always attend their infusion appointments as scheduled. The only time patients would not attend is if they are unwell and their appointment is rescheduled.

8. Are scheduled IV infusions ever provided outside of the Medical Day Stay Unit (e.g. General Medical Ward)? If so, on average, how many times a month would this occur?

No.

9. What is the average cost of an infusion on the Medical Day Stay Unit vs the General Medical Ward?

Hawke's Bay District Health Board declines to answer this portion of your request as making this information publicly available would likely unreasonably prejudice the commercial position of the HBDHB. Therefore, this portion of your request is declined under Section 9 (2) (b) (ii) of the Official Information Act 1982.

10. Does method of administration (eg IV vs sub-cutaneous) pose a barrier to treatment due to capacity constraints?

No.

11. Is there a need for new medicines that are community or home-based as an alternative to infusions?

No.

12. Are infusion bookings ever delayed due to capacity constraints? If so:

a. How many days (on average) from the date an infusion is required to the date it is booked for?

b. What is the longest period (in days) that an infusion has been delayed for in the past year?

c. Over the past 12 months, how many patients have had an infusion delayed due to capacity constraints?

d. How are bookings prioritised?

Infusion service bookings have not been delayed due to capacity constraints.

13. What is the forecasted increase in infusion numbers over the next two years?

Hawke's Bay District Health Board estimates the forecasted increase in infusion numbers over the next two years to be approximately 50.

14. Is the DHB planning to expand infusion capacity? If so:

a. By how much?

b. What is the timeframe for completion?

c. Will capacity meet demand?

There are no plans at this time to expand infusion services. However, demand is regularly reviewed and investment modified to meet any areas of high 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



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Chief Operating Officer

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