

5 November 2021

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Dear [REDACTED]

YOUR OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT (1982) REQUEST HBDHB REF: OIA2021124

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 21 September 2021 where you requested information from Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB). Your questions and HBDHB's response is provided below:

- 1. *Of all the patients with pelvic pain seen by a specialist in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time for that appointment?***

The average wait time was 148 days.
- 2. *Of all the patients with pelvic pain seen by a specialist in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time for that appointment?***

The longest wait time was 316 days. The shortest wait time was 16 days.
- 3. *In the last 12 months how many patients have seen a specialist at the DHB for pelvic pain?***

There have been 38 First Specialist Appointments (FSA's) for the reason of 'Endometriosis'.
- 4. *In the last 12 months, how many patients have been transferred to another hospital to treat possible endometriosis?***

Hawke's Bay DHB does not routinely send patients to other DHB's for treatment. There have been no patients transferred to another hospital to treat possible endometriosis in the last 12 months.
- 5. *How many specialists does the DHB have available to diagnose and treat pelvic pain and possible endometriosis?***

Hawke's Bay DHB has seven Obstetric and Gynaecologist consultants who do Gynaecological procedures. Seven of these consultants can diagnose and treat mild pelvic pain and possible endometriosis and two of the consultants can diagnose and treat severe pelvic pain and possible endometriosis.
- 6. *Of the patients who had advanced laparoscopic surgery to treat suspected endometriosis in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time to get that operation?***

There are 15 elective procedures relating to laparoscopic procedures for Endometriosis, one of which is an acute procedure. On average there is a 219 day wait for these procedures, which is always based on clinical priority from severe to routine.

7. Of the patients who had laparoscopic surgery to treat pelvic pain in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time to get that operation?

Longest wait time is 513 days and the shortest wait time is 24 days. This for the 15 elective procedures relating to laparoscopic procedures for Endometriosis, one of which is acute procedure.

8. A copy of the DHBs clinical pathway to treat suspected endometriosis.

Hawke's Bay DHB does not currently use a specific clinical pathway to treat suspected endometriosis. GP's refer patients to the DHB and the DHB triages patients based on severity and clinical need.

9. Of the patients who saw a specialist with serious back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time for that appointment?

The average wait time was 49 days for a First Specialist appointment for referrals that are prioritised as either Immediate or Urgent.

10. Of the patients who saw a specialist with serious back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time for that appointment?

The longest wait time was 152 days and the shortest was seen the same day. This is for First Specialist appointment referrals that are prioritised as immediate or urgent.

11. Of the patients who had orthopedic surgery to treat back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time for that appointment?

The average waiting time is 123 days. This is based on the time between being put on the surgical wait list and having the surgery and covers surgeries taking place between 1 October 2020 and 20 September 2021. This data includes the following procedures:

- Decompression spine
- Decompression + fusion of spine
- Discectomy spine
- Fixation bone of spine

12. Of the patients who had orthopedic surgery to treat back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time for that operation?

The longest wait was 363 days. The shortest wait was 12 days. This is based on the time between being put on the surgical wait list and having the surgery and covers surgeries taking place between 1 October 2020 and 20 September 2021. Again the waittime is based on clinical assessment prioritising those that need it most. This data includes the following procedures:

- Decompression spine
- Decompression + fusion of spine
- Discectomy spine
- Fixation bone of spine

Please note referral information around endometriosis is widely variable and difficult to prospectively code and is therefore only indicative. To accurately provide the information it would require a search through individual patient records especially as endometriosis treatment embraces multiple surgical codes, which include endo and non-endo cases. The data provided needs to be interpreted with caution.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Chris Ash', written in a cursive style.

Chris Ash
Chief Operating Officer

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