

Clinical - Surgery
Proactive Release: 08 November 2018

25 October 2018

[REDACTED]
Prostate Cancer Foundation of New Zealand
PO Box 301313
Albany,
Auckland 0752

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear Mr Woodside,

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 01 October 2018. You requested the following information:

- The current waiting time for an appointment following a referral from a GP, for a prostate cancer initial consultation.
- The current waiting time for a follow-up appointment, for a prostate biopsy.
- The current waiting time for a post-biopsy appointment, to discuss results and treatment options.
- The current waiting time for a radical prostatectomy, following the post-biopsy appointment

Referrals for patients related to prostate cancers are managed consistent with the Faster Cancer Treatment Guidelines, and these cases fit within the '31-day target' timeline from "decision-to-treat" to treatment.

The CM Health median and range for wait-times for referral for First Specialist Assessment (FSA), and for follow-up appointments for prostate biopsy and post-biopsy appointments are provided below (Table 1).

Wait times - Faster Cancer Times (days)	as at 30/09/2017		as at 30/09/2018	
	median	Range(days)	median	Range(days)
GP referral to First Specialist Assessment (FSA): for suspicion of Prostate Cancer	73	8-142	115	96-147
For prostate biopsy - post specialist assessment	45	13-103	43	16-90
For follow up - post prostate biopsy	40	12-56	30	13-64

Table 1.

Notes:

- Not all patients in this dataset will eventuate with a diagnosis of prostate cancer.
- The dataset includes all patients from when they are referred and graded with a suspicion of prostate cancer through to follow-up of results, some of which confirm that suspicion, to others which are negative for a cancer diagnosis.

With regard to your fourth point (on current waiting time for a radical prostatectomy, following a post-biopsy appointment); Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) does not undertake radical prostatectomy surgery. At the time of a decision-to-treat, all patients requiring this treatment are referred to the regional service provided via Auckland City Hospital (Auckland DHB) for the surgery.

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Apa', with a stylized flourish above the name.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive