

Clinical: Mental Health
Proactive release: 13 December 2018

07 November 2018

[REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] **Act (1982) Request**

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 26 October 2018. You requested the following information:

- **Data on how many people have sought help for video gaming addiction / gaming disorder (as defined by the World Health Organisation) during the last five years;**
 - broken down by year,
 - patients age,
 - how many were accepted for treatment
 - how many declined/ referred to other providers,
 - and average wait time for treatment of those who were accepted.
- **Information about best practice/ guidelines for treatment of video gaming addiction / gaming disorder (as defined by the World Health Organisation)**

Our CM Health Mental Health services advise that they do not currently accept referrals for these types of addiction issues. The Auckland regional Community Alcohol and Drugs Services (CADS) is currently confined to services for treatment of alcohol and drug addiction.

A person may present to other parts of our health system, if there were other symptoms arising related to this type of addiction (such as severe anxiety, or other physical health complaints), and receive related support to address this, however we do not collate retrievable data on the contributing causes to those related presentations. People may also access appropriate support via other community services and groups, rather than acute mental health services.

We note that the World Health Organisation definition was proposed in the last update of the International Classification of Disease (ICD-11) taxonomy in June 2018, to come into effect in 2022, and as such we do not hold any retrospective coding to this diagnostic group.

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 large, stylized initial 'F'.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive