

Clinical : Surgery/ Urology
Proactive Release : 10 July 2019



03 July 2019

[REDACTED]
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[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 11 June 2019. You requested the following information:

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

Please also provide a comparison on each of the above, for the same period in 2017.

At Counties Manukau Health (CM Health), all 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**). We are providing retrospective data from 30 September 2017, as this is consistent with our response to you on this matter in October 2018.

Wait times - Faster Cancer Times (days)	as at 30/09/2017		as at 26/06/2019	
	median	Range(days)	median	Range(days)
GP referral to First Specialist Assessment (FSA): - for suspicion of Prostate Cancer	73	8-142	29	2 - 89
For prostate biopsy - post specialist assessment	45	13-103	13	3 - 62
For follow up - post prostate biopsy	40	12-56	40	16 - 61

Table 1.

Notes

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

With regard to your fourth point (on the current waiting times for a radical prostatectomy, following a post-biopsy appointment), 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 circular flourish above the name.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health