

Clinical : Kidz First  
Proactive Release : 12 July 2019

05 July 2019

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 19 June 2019. You requested the following information:

- 1. The total number of girls aged 11 or 12, who presented to hospital with temporary blindness in the last five years, categorised by age and year;**

**Please note** that the CM Health coding data only provides information on Hospital Admission/ Discharges, rather than presentations. The system will not capture those cases seen in outpatient or community services. We have used the following ICD-10 and 11 coding to identify related diagnoses, as Temporary Blindness is not a code:

<u>H531</u>	Subjective visual disturbances
<u>H540</u>	Blindness, binocular
<u>H541</u>	Severe visual impairment, binocular

There were no girls aged 11 or 12, coded as admitted to our hospitals with the above blindness-related conditions in the last five years.

Initial presentations at the Kidz First Emergency Department with temporary blindness/ impairment may have occurred. Our data system will only note presenting symptoms, not definitive diagnosis. This is determined by clinicians at the time, but may change following investigations. We attempted a word search for "*blind*" as a presenting symptom in Emergency Department. One case was found for a female, who was aged 11 years in 2014, who had sudden blindness as one of several symptoms.

- 2. The total number of girls aged 11 or 12, who were diagnosed with chronic fatigue syndrome in the last five years, categorised by age and year;**

We do not hold data in the number of individuals who are "diagnosed" with specific conditions, and frequently this particular condition will be identified and managed solely in the community, rather than

via any hospital admission. Information coded to any admissions will relate to the events/ treatment or conditions addressed during an admission.

We have used the following ICD coding to identify related diagnoses, as Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS) is not a code and these codes may not necessarily mean that the patient have CFS:

<u>F480</u>	Neurasthenia
<u>R53</u>	Malaise and fatigue

There were no girls aged 11 or 12, coded as admitted to our hospitals with Neurasthenia or Malaise/ fatigue in the last five years.

3. **Any report, briefing document, investigation, notes, email or other document held by the DHB related to the above.**
  - a. ***This includes, but is not limited to, any document that elaborates on their condition, or any wider investigation or inquiry looking into their condition.***

Information, including investigations, notes and reports related to cases will be held individual clinical records. As a consequence of our data search identifying only one 'possible', but not confirmed presentation that matches your request criteria, the privacy interests of a child are our paramount concern. This information is personal, and we do not believe public interest outweighs these concerns. We are therefore declining to respond further to question 3 and 4 of your request. We do this under section 9(2)(a) of the Act – "to protect the privacy of natural persons, including those who are deceased"

We note that you have a very particular set of parameters in this request. Should you hold further information as to why there is public interest in these, we may reconsider the extent of our response.

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,



Fepulea'i Margie Apa  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Counties Manukau Health**