

Clinical: Emergency Response
Proactive Release : 17 May 2019

23 April 2019

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 10 April 2019. You requested the following information:

- **Information about what cases were transferred to your hospital/s from Christchurch, as a result of the impact of the mosque terror attacks on March 15.**
 - *Without breaching personal privacy, please include the general nature of the patient injuries you received and treated, the age and sex of the patient/s, and their date of arrival and length of stay.*

Counties Manukau DHB and Canterbury DHB jointly provide the national Spinal Cord Impairment services for New Zealand. As a result of the Christchurch shootings, an official bypass of the National Spinal Cord impairment (SCI) Destination Policy was activated to support the Canterbury DHB manage their hospital and clinical capacity.

This resulted in four (4) patients with an acute spinal cord impairment/ injury, who reside in the usual Christchurch/Burwood Spinal Unit catchment area, being admitted to and receiving their initial treatment/ care at Middlemore Hospital instead of at Burwood Unit. All the patients are male, and three live in Hawkes Bay, one in Wellington region. They were injured in mid-late March 2019.

None of these patients were from the Mosque attacks.

Summary details are below. However, given the small numbers involved, and nature of the patient's health condition, we consider that providing further details will make these individuals easily identifiable. We are declining to provide further details to protect the privacy these individuals, some of whom have now left our services. We do this under S 9(2)(a) of the Act – to protect the privacy of natural persons.

Patient 1

Initially helicoptered from scene of injury directly to Middlemore Hospital, due to helicopter capacity on the day of injury, and then delayed in transferring back to Christchurch due to related medical

condition. As result of Christchurch events, and due to Canterbury capacity and staffing remained in Middlemore Hospital. An agreement is now in place that this patient will remain under CM Health care with transfer to the Auckland Spinal Rehabilitation Unit for ongoing rehabilitation.

Patient 2

Patient initially presented to local Hospital, and due to the Christchurch event, was then transferred to Middlemore Hospital, under the Destination Policy official bypass. Patient initially admitted to the Intensive Care Unit, and then transferred to the acute ward. Patient transferred to Burwood Unit on 27/03/2019.

Patient 3

Patient was initially admitted to local Hospital, and transferred to Middlemore Hospital due to the Christchurch event, under the Destination Policy official bypass. Patient was initially admitted to the Intensive Care Unit, and then transferred to the acute ward. Patient transferred to Burwood Unit on 04/04/2019.

Patient 4

Patient initially presented to local Hospital, and was transferred to Middlemore on the same day due to the Christchurch event, under the Destination Policy official bypass. Patient was initially admitted to the Intensive Care Unit, and then transferred to the acute ward. Patient transferred to Burwood Unit on 10/04/2019.

The activation of the official bypass arrangement has now been closed.

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