

Clinical: Surgical  
Proactive Release 13 December 2018

30 November 2018

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

### Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, received by Counties Manukau DHB on 02 November 2018 via a partial transfer from the Ministry of Health (MoH) under Section 14 of the Act. The Ministry of Health advised you that they did not hold information on some of your requests, being the following questions (3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 of the list submitted to Ministry of Health):

- **3. Please provide, in total the number of surgeons who were undertaking surgical mesh procedures in NZ for stress urinary procedures using surgical mesh, prior to the 8th October 2018, and before the letter sent out by Dr Bloomfield to all DHB's.**

CMDHB has three (3) credentialed Specialist Surgeons (uro-gynaecologists); and a Subspecialty Trainee currently in training.

- **5. Please provide the total amount of surgeons whom will be able to continue to undertake removal/ revision surgical mesh procedures in NZ after the 8th October 2018.**

We are reviewing the new requirements, to implement changes, and to confirm that the new standards are met by our service. We are working closely with the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) in this process.

The outcome for numbers of surgeons will depend on the final recommendations for the scope of the credentialing and standards, but we anticipate there will be three credentialed surgeons.

- **6. Please provide the total amount of surgeons whom were undertaking removal/ revision of surgical mesh in NZ prior to 8th October 2018.**

As per our responses to question 3 and 5 above.

- **7. Please provide a total list of surgeons, by name, who will be able to implant surgical mesh for stress urinary incontinence procedures after the 8th October 2018.**

As above, this will depend on the MoH final recommendations for the scope of the credentialing standards.

- **8. Please provide a list of surgeons, by name, who will be able to remove surgical mesh for stress urinary incontinence procedures. (Major removal 2<sup>nd</sup> or subsequent adjustment as set out in credentialing expectations).**

These details will depend on the MoH final recommendations for the scope of the credentialing standards.

We note that the Health Select Committee has also requested information regarding Surgical Mesh use from DHBs, as part of the Annual Review process. This information will be publicly available in the near future, and addresses similar questions as those you have raised.

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**