

Clinical: Trauma - assaults / stabbing
Proactive Release: 30 October 2019

17 October 2019

9(2)(a)

E-mail: 9(2)(a)

Dear 9(2)(a)

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, received by us on 07 October 2019. You requested the following information:

1. **All presentations to the Emergency Department for stab wounds financial years 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19.**
 - a. *Stabbing (assault) ICD code X99 only, rather than accidental injuries.*
2. **All admissions to Hospital related to stab wound injuries during financial years 2014/15, 2015/16, 2016/17, 2017/18, 2018/19.**
 - a. *As above - stabbing (assault) cases only, not accidental injuries,*
3. **The length of stay (LOS) for these admissions.**

Refer to Table 1 for the information requested, for all cases seen at the CM Health, Middlemore Hospital Emergency department, and cases discharged from CM Health in-patient services for each of the last 5 financial years.

| Cases | 2014/15 | 2015/16 | 2016/17 | 2017/18 | 2018/19 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| ED presentations (not admitted) - Free-text search for "assault + stab/ or knife" as the presenting symptom | 662 | 757 | 760 | 845 | 742 |
| Discharges with coding ICD-10 X99* | 71 | 100 | 90 | 118 | 103 |
| Average LOS for cases X99* (days) | 1.5 | 1.3 | 1.6 | 2.1 | 2.8 |

Table 1

Please note that:

- ICD-10 classification X99* codes will primarily identify discharges related to "assault inflicting an injury, using a knife as the weapon, by another person(s)", but may also include a small number of cases of assault with sharp glass, or other specified/ unspecified sharp objects as a weapon.

- That cases identified (and counted in) the total presentations to Emergency Care, are also included in the inpatient totals.
- Individuals with these injuries can also seek urgent medical care at Accident and Medical Centres, General Practices or other health care services.
- The average length of stay is affected by the clinical interventions required depending on the injury severity, and injury location etc.
- These numbers should be seen in the context of the Counties Manukau population of over 569,400 people, and the more than 118,000 presentations we see in our Emergency Department each year.

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 flourish above the name.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health