

Clinical - Medicine / Cardiology
Proactive Release: 25 February 2020

23rd January 2020

9(2)(a)

Email: 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 19 December 2019 on transfer from the Ministry of Health under section 14 of the Act. You requested the following information:

- **I am interested in the number of total tests nationwide and total cost of Holter Monitoring type services for atrial fibrillation (AF) and other heart conditions for the latest year available.**

As context for this response, Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 569,400 people). Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient/ ambulatory and community-based models of care. We employ more than 7,500 staff, and see more than 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year.

- In the fiscal year 2018/2019, there was 1,048 Cardiology 'Holter On' and 'Event-recorder On' clinics attended, and completed at CM Health. This doesn't count cases where a booking was not attended.
- Total cost (using Costpro systems) for these provided at DHB facility clinics was \$220,324 for the period. This cost covers the provision of 'Holter on / off' and 'event recorder on/off' clinic sessions, but excludes any related secondary activity costs - such as interpreter, laboratory test or related admissions.

We are providing details of CM Health delivered services, which may include cases completed by our Ambulatory / outpatient services for people living in other DHBs, but note that there is also considerable use of private practice in cardiology and diagnostic testing.

We note that information of this nature on health service resources should be interpreted with caution. Given the differences in DHB population sizes, demographics and the range of services and facilities available, and costing methods, comparisons of volumes and costs between DHBs may be misleading.

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 light blue horizontal line underneath.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health