

Clinical - Surgery - Breast Cancer/ reconstruction
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, dated 20 September 2019. You requested the following information:

- 1. The number of mastectomies (single and double), and lumpectomies, undertaken in respect of all hospitals and facilities under your jurisdiction, including any procedures which may have been contracted out to private health providers for whatever reason, for the years 2015/16, 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 respectively.**
- 2. The number of breast reconstruction surgeries (single and double), undertaken in respect of all hospitals and facilities under your jurisdiction, including any procedures which may have been contracted out to private health providers for whatever reason, for the years 2015/16, 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 respectively.**

For context, Counties Manukau DHB (CMDHB) provides services to meet the health needs of approximately 569,400 people residing in Counties Manukau and Franklin district. The Counties Manukau community has significant ethnic and cultural diversity, and many people have high health needs. Services provided include acute and elective hospital services and community support. We also work closely with contracted primary health and NGO providers to deliver primary health and long term support services to our community. We provide regional and specialist services for Burns/ Plastics Surgery, and for Orthopaedic/ Spinal services.

As the regional service, the CM Health Plastic Surgery Department receives some referrals for breast reconstructive surgery for patients that are domiciled in the wider Northern Region, (covering Northland DHB, Waitemata DHB, Auckland DHB, and Counties Manukau DHB). These referrals can occur at any stage post-breast cancer treatment, and there is no time limit applied to accepting these

referrals for a reconstruction following other treatment. The majority of referrals for reconstruction are from within the Northern Region; however in the period specified, there have been accepted referrals for reconstruction procedures from 18 of the 20 District Health Boards.

The total procedures per year for mastectomy/ lumpectomy and breast reconstruction are provided in the tables in Appendix 1 (**attached**).

For the purpose of this request, we are providing data from Clinical Coding (ICD-10 codes) for all cases seen by the CM Health services, noting separately those procedures completed for our own Counties Manukau domiciled community, and those from other DHBs. Breast reconstruction often takes multiple procedures; consequently these numbers do not reflect individual patients, and may be commenced and completed sometime after the initial mastectomy.

The total volumes should be considered in the context of approximately 15,000 elective procedures completed by CM Health 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,



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health

Refer: Appendix 1

Appendix 1:

OIA 20092019 – HUMPHRIES – Breast Surgery
Released under Official Information Act

Question 1:

The number of mastectomies (single and double), and lumpectomies:

- undertaken in respect of all hospitals and facilities under your jurisdiction, including any procedures which may have been contracted out to private health providers for whatever reason,
- For the years 2015/16, 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 respectively.

Total Number of Mastectomy/ Lumpectomy cases (01/07/2015 - 30/06/2019)

DHB domicile	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total
Counties Manukau DHB	471	462	433	413	1,779
For Other DHBs	26	30	47	54	157
Total	497	492	480	467	1,936

Table 1

For mastectomies and lumpectomies, we have included the following coded procedures in the totals per year, noting that some women may have had more than one, or concurrent procedures in the period specified.

- Excision of lesion of breast
- Simple mastectomy, unilateral
- Simple mastectomy, bilateral
- Sentinel lymph node biopsy of axilla
- Radical excision of lymph nodes of axilla

No procedures have been contracted out to private health providers in this period

Question 2:

The number of breast reconstruction surgeries (single and double):

- undertaken in respect of all hospitals and facilities under your jurisdiction, including any procedures which may have been contracted out to private health providers for whatever reason,
- For the years 2015/16, 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019 respectively.

Total Number of Reconstruction cases (01/07/2015 - 30/06/2019)

DHB domicile	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	Total
Counties Manukau DHB	79	59	57	56	251
For Other DHBs	70	65	77	67	279
Total	149	124	134	123	530

Table 2

For Breast Reconstructions, in the totals per year, we have included the full range of coded procedures related to breast reconstructions - including both major and minor surgical interventions, noting that in some cases multiple procedures as part of reconstruction will occur within a year, or over 2 years.

- Augmentation mammoplasty, bilateral
- Reconstruction of breast using flap
- Reconstruction of breast using breast sharing technique, first stage
- Reconstruction of breast using breast sharing technique, second stage
- Reconstruction of breast with insertion of tissue expander
- Reconstruction of nipple
- Reconstruction of areola
- Reconstruction of nipple and areola

No procedures have been contracted out to private health providers in this period.

ENDS