

Clinical: Surgical - Pain Services
Proactive Release: 25 February 2020

10 February 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 27 November 2019. We advised on the 14th January advising that we required an extension of time under Section 15A of the Act. You requested the following information:

Regarding chronic pain services for the population of your district health board (DHB):

1. Are chronic pain services separately funded by the DHB? If so, please provide data on:
 - a. budgeted and actual expenditure in 2017/18 and 2018/19,
 - b. number of pain specialists/consultants employed by the DHB,
 - c. number of patients (both non-ACC and ACC patients) who received services in 2017/18 and 2018/19,
 - d. average waiting times for an appointment following referral from a GP, or other health practitioner,
 - e. make-up and dedicated FTE of the multidisciplinary team workforce.
2. If there is no chronic pain service, please provide information on:
 - a. where patients are referred to, and the average waiting times for assessment and treatment in 2017/18 and 2018/19,
 - b. number of patients referred for services out of the district in 2017/18 and 2018/19.
3. What steps is the DHB taking to improve chronic pain services?

The Faculty of Pain Medicine is seeking the above information from all DHBs to help us better understand the availability of, and access to, pain services in New Zealand and to use the information in our continuing efforts to advocate for chronic pain services to be seen as a priority.

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), as well as regional and supra-regional specialist services (Burns, Plastics and Orthopaedics). 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 presentations at the Middlemore Hospital Emergency Department each year. There is publicly available information on our CM Health Chronic Pain Services via our website:

- <https://www.countiesmanukau.health.nz/our-services/a-z/chronic-pain-service/>

Our responses to each of your questions are outlined below.

1. Are chronic pain services separately funded by the DHB?

If so, please provide data on:

a. Budgeted and actual expenditure in 2017/18 and 2018/19

Year	Budget expenditure	Actual expenditure
FY 2017/18	\$535,975	\$621,591
FY 2018/19	\$790,723	\$780,149

b. Number of pain specialists/consultants employed by the DHB

SMO	Musculoskeletal Physician/GP	0.250
SMO	FPM/Anaesthetist	0.250
SMO	FPM/Psychiatrist	0.600
SMO	Practice Development Stage Pain Fellow/Anaesthetist	0.500
SMO	FPM/Anaesthetist	0.125
SMO	Gynaecologist	0.125
SMO/ Pain Fellow	Pain Fellow/Anaesthetist	1.000
TOTAL		2.850

c. Number of patients (both non-ACC and ACC patients) who received services in 2017/18 and 2018/19

	2017/18	2018/19
Volume of unique patients	448	568
Number of attended appointments	3,616	3,640

Data Selection

- All outpatient appointments attended under chronic pain service during fiscal year 2017/18 and 2018/19
- Unique patient count - i.e. each patient seen only counted once
- Appointments - number of attended appointments (DNA's excluded)

CMH has no ACC contract for chronic pain services; ACC cases are referred on to ACC Community or Tertiary ACC providers. Most referrals are declined because they have an open ACC case.

d. Average waiting times for an appointment following referral from a GP, or other health practitioner.

- CPS waiting time average from referral to appointment is 104 days

	2017/18	2018/19
Days waiting between Referral Received and Waiting List End	134	106

e. Make up and dedicated FTE of the multidisciplinary team workforce.

Physiotherapist	0.50
Physiotherapist	0.50
Physiotherapist	0.40
Total Physiotherapist	1.40
Psychologist	0.60
Psychologist	0.60
Health Psychology Intern	0.80
Total Psychology	2.00
Senior Nurse	0.90
Nurse Practitioner	0.90
Total Nursing	1.80
Scheduler/Admin	0.70

2. If there is no chronic pain service, please provide information on:

a. Where patients are referred to, and the average waiting times for assessment and treatment in 2017/18 and 2018/19?

- Not applicable as we have a Chronic Pain Service

b. Number of patients referred for services out of the district in 2017/18 and 2018/19.

- Not applicable as we have a Chronic Pain Service

3. What steps is the DHB taking to improve chronic pain services?

- CMH has funded a new 1.0 FTE Pain Fellow position as of 12 December 2019.
- CMH has supported a Complex (Transitional) Pain Service since 2013 to provide improved and more seamless care for hospital inpatients with complex pain presentations.
- The Chronic Pain Service has developed a number of innovative group programmes providing holistic treatment for patients of the service, including a Pain Management programme, graduate ACT psychotherapy group programme, gym and relaxation training groups, and a young person's pain management group.
- CMH expects to support the development of additional allied health clinicians in the Chronic Pain Service in the next 1-3 years, including a new Occupational Therapy position and additional physiotherapy and psychology positions, in order to address the significant unmet need in our population, particularly in vulnerable and inequitably served populations such as Pasifika peoples, Maaori and young people.

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