

14th December 2020

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request for – Intraocular Lenses & Cataract Surgery

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 13th November 2020, by way of transfer from the Ministry of Health (Ref: H202008035). You requested the following information:

“I would like to request the amount paid for intraocular lenses, the type of intraocular lenses purchased and the volume ordered per year for the last five years. I would like to request the amount paid for viscoelastics, surgical blades and sutures for cataract surgery.”

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 7,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 569,400 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

- **“I would like to request the amount paid for intraocular lenses, the type of intraocular lenses purchased and the volume ordered per year for the last five years. I would like to request the amount paid for viscoelastics, surgical blades and sutures for cataract surgery.”**

Table 1 below reflects the quantity ordered and cost of standard intraocular lenses from financial years 2016 to 2020 year to date.

Standard Intraocular lenses		
Financial year	Quantity	Cost
2016/17	1331	\$187,533
2017/18	1277	\$180,347
2018/19	1305	\$184,399
2019/20	1270	\$179,275
2020/21 year to date	518	\$73,186

Table 1: Data Source healthAlliance 25.11.2020

The information in table 1 excludes non-standard Toric lenses and all lenses supplied by outsourced cataract surgery providers.

We are unable to provide the data on other products used for cataract surgery as this information is not available without manual search through records of supplies used during cataract surgery. Therefore, we are declining to answer under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act 1982 - the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

I trust that this information is helpful. You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fepulea'i Margie Apa', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health