

15th December 2020



Dear 

Official Information Act Request for – Surgery Thresholds

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 16th November 2020, you requested the following information:

May I please find out what the surgery threshold is for:

- 1. endometriosis laparoscopic surgery**
- 2. knee replacement**
- 3. hip replacement**

Can I also find out whether any surgery thresholds have changed in the last five years at your DHB. Can this include what the threshold change was and for what 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.

The Clinical Priority Assessment Criteria (CPAC) scoring system comes under the Ministry of Health's National Booking Reporting System. More information about the booking reporting system and the CPAC scoring system is publicly available and can be found at the following link:

- <https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/data-references/code-tables/national-booking-reporting-system-code-tables>

May I please find out what the surgery threshold is for:

- 1. Endometriosis laparoscopic surgery**

The endometriosis laparoscopic surgery threshold for CM Health is currently determined by the CPAC score assigned as a result of the clinical consultation which considers lifestyle issues and the presence or lack of any concerning features on clinical investigations including ultrasound scan findings.

The threshold for endometriosis laparoscopic surgery is 65, this threshold has been in place since May 2018. There have been no other amendments to surgical access within a 5-year range.

2. Knee replacement

3. Hip replacement

All scores are based on the National Scoring Tool questionnaire which is split into two parts with each section having a weighting.

- The 'Patient Impact on Life Questionnaire' completed by the patient asks for a score on six areas which are social intervention, personal intervention, ability to fulfil the responsibilities to others, personal care, personal safety and leisure activities.
- The 'Surgeon Derived Impact on Patient' Questionnaire completed by the surgeon who recommends the patient for surgery scores on five areas which are impact of pain and functional compromise, likelihood of deterioration in symptoms, consequence of deterioration in symptoms/function, amount of benefit from the proposed surgery, risk of surgery for the patient.

When entered into a Ministry of Health electronic system, a score is generated based on individual weightings built into the system.

The scoring system applies to all orthopaedic sub-specialities and is not specifically for hip and knee.

For both knee and hip replacements, the surgical threshold has changed over the last 4 years and is identified below in table 1.

Date	Knee & Hip Score
01/07/2016	45
28/09/2018	50
17/12/2018	55
28/05/2019	65

Table 1: Data Source Orthopaedic Department 24.11.2020

We express caution about interpreting these thresholds in isolation of the capacity available in a local hospital system (public and private) and/or without comparisons to other DHBs with like populations.

I trust that this information answers your request. 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



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health