

14th October 2021

s9(2)(a)
[Redacted]

Dear s9(2)(a)
[Redacted]

Official Information Act Request for – Endometriosis

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 21st September 2021, you requested the following information:

1. Of all the patients with endometriosis seen by a specialist in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time for that appointment?
2. Of all the patients with endometriosis seen by a specialist in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time for that appointment?
3. In the last 12 months how many patients have seen a specialist at the DHB for endometriosis?
4. In the last 12 months, how many patients have been transferred to another hospital to treat endometriosis?
5. How many specialists does the DHB have available to diagnose and treat severe endometriosis?
6. Of the patients who had advanced laparoscopic surgery to treat endometriosis in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time to get that operation?
7. Of the patients who had advanced laparoscopic surgery to treat endometriosis in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time to get that operation?
8. A copy of the DHBs clinical pathway to treat endometriosis.
9. Of the patients who saw a specialist with serious back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time for that appointment?
10. Of the patients who saw a specialist with serious back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time for that appointment?
11. Of the patients who had orthopaedic surgery to treat back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time for that appointment?
12. Of the patients who had orthopaedic surgery to treat back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time for that operation?

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 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.

- 1. Of all the patients with endometriosis seen by a specialist in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time for that appointment?**

67 days.

- 2. Of all the patients with endometriosis seen by a specialist in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time for that appointment?**

21 days and 142 days.

- 3. In the last 12 months how many patients have seen a specialist at the DHB for endometriosis?**

225 patients.

A caveat is that we cannot provide a clear identification of incoming endometriosis cases as they are not always clearly identifiable in our datasets. We have categories such as 'Query Pelvic Pain' FSA (40) plus outpatient appointments linked to patients who then go onto the surgical waiting list for a procedure involving endometriosis (185) which gives us a total 225 patients.

- 4. In the last 12 months, how many patients have been transferred to another hospital to treat endometriosis?**

There is no local category or coding to identify this information and this is not data that is routinely collected by CM Health. In order to provide this information would involve considerable time to manually search through individual patient files. We have, therefore, determined to decline this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation and research.

- 5. How many specialists does the DHB have available to diagnose and treat severe endometriosis?**

All Gynaecologists (11) are available to diagnose endometriosis. A subset of five specialise in pelvic pain/endometriosis with two Gynaecologists who specialise in severe endometriosis.

- 6. Of the patients who had advanced laparoscopic surgery to treat endometriosis in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time to get that operation?**

248 days.

- 7. Of the patients who had advanced laparoscopic surgery to treat endometriosis in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time to get that operation?**

33 patients have waited for surgery classified as non-urgent. The waiting time has been at the minimum 6 days – maximum at 433 days. All women involved have many contacts with hospital services and primary care throughout their waiting time. This is a complex disease which can present differently for each patient. Surgery is not the only treatment, different treatment options are available including surgery, pain management, medical and conservative nurse-led management

- 8. A copy of the DHBs clinical pathway to treat endometriosis.**

There is currently an informal pathway for endometriosis, a formal clinical pathway is currently under construction by one of endometriosis specialists.

- 9. Of the patients who saw a specialist with serious back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time for that appointment?**

The average wait time was 104 days.

10. Of the patients who saw a specialist with serious back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time for that appointment?

493 appointments - minimum 4 days and maximum 214 days.

11. Of the patients who had orthopaedic surgery to treat back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time for that appointment?

80 days.

12. Of the patients who had orthopaedic surgery to treat back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time for that operation?

153 surgical events - minimum 6 days and maximum 197 days.

I trust 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