

15<sup>th</sup> March 2022

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

### Official Information Act Request for – Tube Feeding

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2022, you requested the following information:

1. **How many people under the CMDHB have a feeding tube? Would appreciate this by age bracket please, eg 5 year brackets.**
2. **Does the CMDHB provide, free of charge, the Nutricia Flocare Infinity Go Frame for those feeding tube patients requiring one and if so, what is the GST excl unit price that the CCDHB purchase them for from Nutricia?**

#### 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. **How many people under the CMDHB have a feeding tube? Would appreciate this by age bracket please, eg 5 year brackets.**

In response to your request, pulling this information by 5-year age brackets would involve considerable time to manually search through individual patient files. We can however provide this information by Community Adults (18+ years), Community Paediatrics (0-18 years) and Adult Inpatients.

- **Community Adults (18+years):** As of 3rd March 2022, there are approximately 93 adult Home Enteral Nutrition patients on the community Dietitian list. An estimated 'usual' range would be between 80 and 100 across the 4 locality bases. This is a mixture of Nasogastric, Nasjejunal and PEG feeds.

- **Community Paediatrics (0-18years):** As of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2022, there are approximately 128 on the Dietitian list. Approximately 40% are 0-2 years of age and 60% > 2 years of age. This would be a mixture of Nasogastric Tubes and PEGs.
- **Adult Inpatients:** As of 8<sup>th</sup> March 2022, there would be approximately 30 patients with a feeding tube. This could range with a maximum of up to 55 patients on any given day. This would be a mixture of feeding and tube types.

It is important to note that this information and specific numbers would change on a daily basis, given that patients are put on feeds or taken off feeds daily due to a number of clinical nutritional, medical and swallow based decisions, and also in response to the changing medical environment on any given day.

**2. Does the CMDHB provide, free of charge, the Nutricia Flocare Infinity Go Frame for those feeding tube patients requiring one and if so, what is the GST excl unit price that the CCDHB purchase them for from Nutricia?**

Nutricia has been providing the Flocare Infinity frames directly to patients free of charge. CMDHB does not pay for these.

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](http://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



**Dr Peter Watson**  
**Acting Chief Executive Officer**  
**Counties Manukau Health**