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RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10844

I refer to your email dated 23 March 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

1. ED:

- a. how many attendances were there at the ED last week?**

There were 2283 attendances at ED in the week ending 18/03/2022

- b. How many attendances were there in the same week, in 2021?**

There were 2482 attendances in the week ending 19/03/2021

- c. Of the attendances last week, how many were Covid-19 related?**

There were 158 confirmed Covid-19 attendances at Christchurch and Ashburton Emergency Departments in the week ending 18/03/2022.

- d. Of those ED attendances related to Covid-19, how many were admitted to hospital?**

There were 51 patients with confirmed Covid-19 who were admitted into hospital from ED at Christchurch and Ashburton Hospitals.

- e. What percentage of people attending the Emergency Department left the department within six hours?**

82% of those people attending the Emergency Department in the week ending 18/03/2022 were seen in under 6 hours at Christchurch and Ashburton Hospitals.

- f. how many ED staff are currently not working due to Covid-19 isolation?**

As at 25 March 2022 there were seven nurses, four medical staff and no admin people not working due to Covid-19 isolation. **Note:** this changes from day to day.

2. FSA and planned surgery wait times:

a. how many people were waiting for longer than 120 days for a FSA at the end of February?

As at Friday 25th February there were 3,012 waiting list entries for First Specialist Assessment (FSA), where the patient had been waiting for longer than 120 days.

b. how many people were waiting longer than 120 days for planned surgery at the end of February?

As at Friday 25th February there were 2,118 waiting list entries for surgery or treatment, where the patient had been waiting for longer than 120 days since being given certainty.

c. has any modelling been done to estimate the number of FSAs and planned/elective surgeries that will be deferred during the Omicron outbreak? If so, can I see that modelling?

No.

d. what plan does the CDHB have to catch up on surgeries deferred in the Omicron outbreak, while providing these services in a timely way for new patients?

- When a patient is assessed in outpatients, following referral to the hospital, the clinician provides a clear indication how soon each patient needs to be seen. The established practice of booking patients' care in order of need and by the longest wait will ensure that those patients who have the most urgent needs are provided care first, while ensuring that those whose care has been cancelled will not need to wait longer than more recent referrals with a similar level of need.
- As in previous years, the Ministry of Health has provided District Health Boards with funding targeted at improving planned care. The focus for the funding in the current year is to improve waiting times for patients and reduce clinical risk across the system associated with people waiting for their care. This takes into consideration the impacts COVID-19 lockdowns and various other constraints that have affected the delivery of planned care. This funding will enable the provision of more operations and procedures across nine different surgical services and cardiology than would otherwise be the case.

Note: Canterbury DHB has continued to do as much surgery as possible based on available beds and staff throughout the Omicron outbreak.

3. ICU occupancy:

a. how many ICU beds are currently occupied? Of those, how many are occupied with people who are there because of severe Covid-19 symptoms/response?

As at 29/03/2022 at 1621 there were 15 patients in Christchurch ICU. Three of these patients have Covid-19 but it is incidental and not the reason for their admission.

b. How many days in February were more than 21 ICU beds occupied?

There were six days in February where at a point in the day the hourly occupancy count of ICU in Christchurch Hospital exceeded 21 patients. This is only inclusive on ICU (excludes Children's High Dependency Unit).

c. How many days in February were more than 25 ICU beds occupied?

There was one day in February where at a point in the day the hourly occupancy count of ICU in Christchurch Hospital exceeded 25 patients. This is only inclusive on ICU (excludes Children's High Dependency Unit)

d. how many ICU staff are currently not working due to Covid-19 isolation?

As at 29 March 2022 there were seven Registered Nurses (RNs) not working due to Covid-19 isolation.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely




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Canterbury DHB & West Coast DHB