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9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10582

I refer to your handwritten request received by us on 30 March 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding Echocardiogram procedures in the Cardiology department. Specifically:

During the period 15 – 29 March, please provide:

- **Number of echo staff & hours worked**

During the period March 15 – 29, there were 5.6 FTE staff members, 2.0 FTE trainees and 1.0 FTE Health Care Assistant working in Canterbury DHB's Cardiology department on Echocardiogram services. The combined total hours worked over this period is 570 hours.

- **Number of cases completed per day; size of backlog; period of time backlog has existed**

As of 1 April 2021, there were 640 patients on the waitlist for echocardiogram procedures, with an average waiting time of 5 months overdue. This number includes Cardiologist referrals, which are prioritised over other referrals.

Please refer to **Table One** (overleaf), which shows the number of echocardiogram procedures performed by the Canterbury DHB each day from 15 March 2021 to 29 March 2021, broken down by outpatient and inpatient procedures.

Table One: Number of Echocardiogram Procedures (Outpatient and Inpatient) Performed by Canterbury DHB between 15 – 29 March 2021.

Echocardiogram Procedures Performed (Transoesophageal & Echo Cardiogram Transthoracic)			
Procedure Date	Day of the Week	Number of Outpatient Procedures Performed	Number of Inpatient Procedures Performed
15th Mar 21	Mon	23	9
16th Mar 21	Tue	26	5
17th Mar 21	Wed	27	9
18th Mar 21	Thu	34	12
19th Mar 21	Fri	25	13
22nd Mar 21	Mon	28	13
23rd Mar 21	Tue	28	10
24th Mar 21	Wed	29	13
25th Mar 21	Thu	35	10
26th Mar 21	Fri	27	7
27th Mar 21	Sat	5	3
28th Mar 21	Sun	1	2
29th Mar 21	Mon	43	17
TOTAL		331	123

- **Number of and period of staff absence for any reason including training, sickness, unfilled positions, acting up**

There are currently no staff vacancies in the Cardiology department's echocardiogram area. During the specified March period, there were 124 hours of annual leave taken by staff members, 9.8 hours of sick leave, and 35.53 hours of other leave.

- **Work allocation and prioritisation**

Canterbury DHB's outpatient clinics are booked 6 – 10 weeks in advance. Staff are rostered to cover outpatient clinics with at least 2 staff being allocated to manage the number of inpatient procedures, which change on a daily basis.

- **Triage system rules**

Canterbury DHB's inpatient triage criteria for echocardiogram procedures is as follows:

- Clinical urgent cases that will have immediate impact on patient management: less than 4 hours.
- Urgent cases: less than 24 hours.
- Routine scan: less than 2 days.

All non-Cardiology requests are triaged by the echo Cardiologist on call.

- **Outpatient backlog size**

There is only one waiting list for echocardiogram procedures. As iterated above, at 1 April 2021 there were 640 patients waiting for procedures, with an average waiting time of 5 months overdue.

- **Age and quality of equipment**

The average age of equipment used for echocardiogram services is six years.

I trust 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

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R La Salle', is positioned below the 'Yours sincerely' text.

Ralph La Salle
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support