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11 June 2019

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RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10098

I refer to your email dated 6 May 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding Maternity Ward staffing.

- 1. How many consultants/senior doctors are rostered on and physically present on your hospital maternity wards on Saturdays and Sundays and between 10pm and 8am during the week?**

There is one consultant rostered on Saturday and Sunday as first on call. They are physically present at 8am for handover until the ward round is complete and/or no longer needed to be on site. There is an evening handover at 10pm which the consultant is required to be at. While not mandated, most consultants choose to stay on site overnight due to workload. A room has been designated within Christchurch Women's Hospital for consultants to sleep in. There is a second consultant on call off site if required.

- 2. If consultants/senior doctors are rostered on to work in the ward on the weekend, what times do their shifts start and end? (i.e., is there someone there at all times?)**

There is one consultant rostered to be first on call from 8am Friday until 8.30am Saturday. At this time they become the second on call consultant until 8am Sunday. From 8am Sunday they resume first on call duties until 8.30am Monday. A further consultant is second on call from 5pm Friday until 8am Saturday at which time they takeover first on call duties until 8.30am Sunday. From 8.30 am Sunday time they become second on call until 8am Monday.

- 3. What times are consultants/senior doctors rostered on until during the week? (ie, is there someone there at all times?)**

The consultants are required to be on site until 5pm during the week. After 5pm there are consultants on first and second call as advised above. The consultant on first call is required to be at Resident Medical Officer (RMO) handovers at 8am, 4pm and 10pm. Most of the consultants on first call choose to remain on site due to workload.

4. Why are/why aren't consultants/senior doctors present/not present on the ward at all times?

The consultants are not present on site when the workload is such that they can carry out their on call duties off site. As mentioned above there is a designated room for consultants to sleep in overnight when on call. While this room is not on the ward it is within Christchurch Women's Hospital.

5. Are senior doctors/consultants on call for help on the maternity ward during the weekend and between 10pm and 8am on weekdays?

Yes they are.

6. How quickly are any on call-doctors expected to be able to be at the hospital?

If a consultant is off site for a period of on call then they are expected to be able to return to the hospital within 20 minutes.

7. If senior doctors/consultants are not on the ward at all times, who is available to provide care to women when they are not present? (midwives, junior doctors etc.)

During periods when there is not a consultant on site the care is provided by Resident Medical Officers (RMOs), Midwives and an Assistant Charge Midwifery Manager (ACMM). The ACMMs primary role is to prioritise care and will liaise with the RMOs as required. The ACMM or RMO will call the consultant on call if required for workload assistance and/or advice.

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



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support