

CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4160
Fax: 0064 3 364 4165
carolyn.gullery@cdhb.health.nz

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9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10231

I refer to your email, dated 31 October 2019, to the Ministry of Health which they subsequently partially transferred to us on 22 November 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

- **The number of people who presented to a hospital emergency department with dental issues in 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Please itemise per year, and, where possible, per hospital.**

We are providing you with the aggregated statistics for years 2014 through to 2019.

Emergency department (ED) discharges with dental related codes were extracted for the requested years. Until late 2018 Christchurch Hospital utilised HOMER coding which captured dental injuries and requests for dental care (cavities, abscesses, etc). Unfortunately the codes also capture non dental injuries (eg facial bruises and other facial injuries, etc). It is impossible to separate dental injuries from other facial injuries and from dental conditions when the code 'Dental Other' was used.

Christchurch and Ashburton hospitals both used the HOMER computer system but used different diagnosis codes.

In late 2018 we changed to a newer Emergency Department information system called Emergency Department at a Glance (EDaaG) with extracted SNOMED* coding. This is more detailed but non-comparable to coding used under HOMER.

***SNOMED** - SNOMED CT (Clinical Terms) is the most comprehensive and precise clinical health terminology product in the world, owned and distributed around the world by the SNOMED International, the trading name of the International Health Terminology Standards Development Organisation (IHTSDO).

<https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/classification-and-terminology/new-zealand-snomed-ct-national-release-centre/snomed-ct>

Please refer to Tables one and two (overleaf) for the HOMER diagnoses information and the PICS diagnoses information.

Table one: Homer Diagnoses for Christchurch ED and Ashburton ED

Diagnosis Code	Christchurch description	Ashburton description
BRUISE	Face and dental injuries	Bruise*
DENTINF	Dental Infection	Dental Infection
DENTOTH	Dental Other	Dental Other
FACINJ	Facial Trauma (Unspecified)*	Facial/Dental Trauma (Unspecified)*

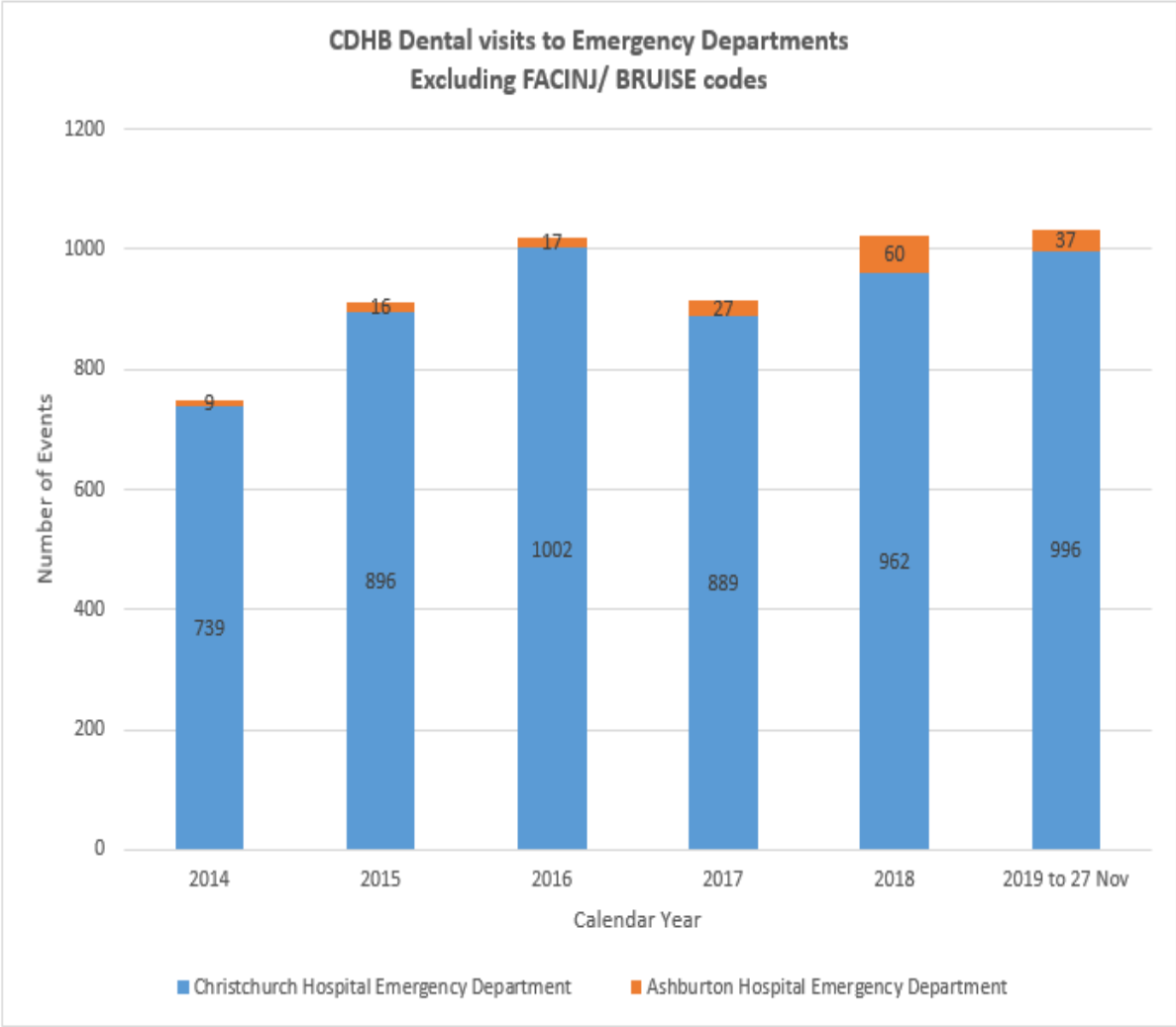
*Facial trauma and Bruise are removed from the statistics below

Table two: PICS Diagnoses

Search	Diagnosis Code	Diagnosis
tooth	109747007	Cracked tooth (disorder)
tooth	173280002	Replantation of tooth (procedure)
tooth	234978004	Staining of tooth (disorder)
tooth	235104008	Impacted tooth (disorder)
tooth	269166009	Broken tooth injury (disorder)
tooth	27355003	Toothache (finding)
tooth	36202009	Fracture of tooth (disorder)
tooth	698039001	Incomplete fracture of tooth (disorder)
tooth	75379002	Tooth re-implantation and/or stabilisation of accidentally avulsed or displaced tooth and/or alveolus (procedure)
teeth	191983006	Bruxism (teeth grinding) (disorder)
teeth	196419009	Embedded teeth (disorder)
teeth	196439008	Loss of teeth due to an accident (disorder)
teeth	263270004	Broken teeth injury without complication (disorder)
teeth	8666004	Supernumerary teeth (disorder)
teeth	9226004	Impacted teeth with abnormal position (disorder)
dental	108306002	Dental-oral procedure AND/OR service (procedure)
dental	299709002	Dental abscess (disorder)
dental	306186000	Referral to dental surgery service (procedure)
dental	309629005	Child referral - community dentist (procedure)
dental	310143002	Dental surgery service (qualifier value)
dental	394606000	Restorative dentistry (qualifier value)
dental	394607009	Paediatric dentistry (qualifier value)
dental	397869004	Dental trauma (disorder)
dental	408444009	General dental practice (qualifier value)
dental	408449004	Surgical dentistry (qualifier value)
dental	408473007	Public health dentistry (qualifier value)
dental	447993005	Removal of dental wiring (procedure)
dental	698686003	Fracture of dental implant (disorder)
dental	704105008	Advised to contact dental service (situation)
dental	722163006	Dentistry (qualifier value)
dental	80967001	Dental caries (disorder)
dental	87189000	Dental debridement (procedure)
dental	95254009	Secondary dental caries (disorder)

The aggregated data is presented in **Fig 1.** (overleaf).

Fig 1. Canterbury DHB Dental visits to Emergency Departments – excluding Facial trauma (unspecified) and Bruise codes.



- **What is the standard procedure when someone presents to the emergency department with a dental problem? Please explain standard procedure for cases where treatment is refused, and where treatment is administered.**

The Emergency Department (ED) has some equipment to provide emergency dental services but is not staffed by trained dentists. First aid is provided by ED trained nurses and doctors. The Hospital Dental Service has a dentist and dental surgeon on call who can attend ED to provide initial treatment for dental injuries if requested.

Patients who attend with moderate to severe dental injuries are referred to the Hospital Dental and Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery Dept. Initial treatment is provided in ED and definitive treatment provided by Canterbury DHB.

Patients with minor dental injuries are provided with pain relief and first aid treatment. They are referred back to the patient’s community dentist for ACC funded follow-up treatment.

Patients seeking care for longstanding dental conditions are provided with pain relief and first aid treatment. Definitive dental care is not provided by ED. If patients are on a benefit then they may be eligible to be seen at the Hospital Dental: Relief of Pain Clinic for a nominal charge.

A full description of the services provided by the Canterbury DHB Hospital Dental Service are available at <https://www.cdhb.health.nz/health-services/dental-department/>

Those not eligible for subsidised services are referred back to their community dentist for definitive treatment.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping underline.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support