

14 July 2022

9(2)(a)



RE Official Information Act request ChChD (Canterbury District) 10880

I refer to your email dated 25 May 2022 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Waitaha Canterbury regarding Hospital wait times and ED delays. Specifically:

1. The average wait time to see an oncologist after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
2. The longest and shortest wait time to see an oncologist after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
3. The average wait time for cancer surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
4. The longest and shortest wait time for cancer surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
5. The average wait time to see a cardiologist after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
6. The longest and shortest wait time to see a cardiologist after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
7. The average wait time for heart surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
8. The longest and shortest wait time for heart surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
9. The average wait time to see an orthopaedic surgeon after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
10. The longest and shortest wait time to see an orthopaedic surgeon after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
11. The average wait time for orthopaedic surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
12. The longest and shortest wait time for orthopaedic surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
13. The average wait time for a gynaecologist appointment after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
14. The longest and shortest wait time for a gynaecologist appointment after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
15. The average wait time for gynaecological surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
16. The longest and shortest wait time for gynaecological surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
17. The average wait time for a urologist appointment after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.

18. The longest and shortest wait time for a urologist appointment after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
19. The average wait time for urology surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
20. The longest and shortest wait time for urology surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
21. The average wait time for a respiratory specialist appointment/ or general medicine specialist for respiratory problems after a referral from a GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
22. The longest and shortest wait time for a respiratory specialist appointment/ or general medicine specialist for respiratory problems after a referral from a GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
23. The average wait time for respiratory surgery after a First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
24. The longest and shortest wait time for a respiratory surgery after a First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.
25. The average wait time for a patient visiting the emergency department, for the last five years from 2018 to this year to date.
26. The longest and shortest wait time for a patient visiting the emergency department for the last five years from 2018 to this year to date.

Data on "Longest Wait" times: We note that a number of your questions seek information on "longest wait" periods for individual patients. "Longest waits" for FSA or for surgery can be influenced by a multitude of factors for individual patients. Consequently, while listed in our response, this data presented in itself is not meaningful without patient-specific context and cannot necessarily be construed in any way that long wait times for individuals are due to capacity or service constraint. Maximum patient waiting times in the data may be skewed by just a couple of individuals. Waitaha Canterbury often offers a patient a First Specialist Appointment at an outpatient clinic that the patients then decline at their own request, for a range of personal reasons. These patients are not automatically removed from our waiting lists – but rather, their referral is retained as "waiting" on our system until the patient indicates that they are ready to accept an appointment. Delays to appointment may also occur due to patients with multiple referrals to various specialities needing to be respectively seen in turn for other complications or comorbidities as part of a wider context of care. These cases are also included in the data provided.

Accordingly, the longest wait time apparent in the data cannot be considered a true reflection of actual waiting times that a person may have been left without having been offered an appointment but declined at their own request or deferred to another time better suited to their circumstances.

Please refer to **Appendix 1- Tables 1, 2 and 3** (attached) for the information requested. Please also refer to **Notes** beneath the tables and copied for you below: i.e.

Notes:

- 2018 data is not provided as we changed patient management systems in this year and prior data is not comparable
- 2022 data is as at June 2022
- Many of the longest waits for FSA or treatment are often due to patients having to wait for certain other procedures to be carried out or other milestones to occur before their appointment can be undertaken. There may also be some incorrect data entry.

¹ Certainty date is when the patient is notified that surgery will be carried out for their condition.

² Cancer surgery is identified by those patients with an ICD code prefixed with C

³ Due to pressures on the Emergency Department accurate recording of timeliness can occasionally contain errors and therefore we have removed persons with length of wait over 12 hours. The remaining high wait time results are also unlikely to reflect the true situation which will be significantly shorter.

27. All reports discussing hospital wait times and emergency department delays, dated between Jan 2021 to date, held by the DHB.

Reports discussing wait times for our services have been made through our reports to our Board and Board Advisory Committees. All Advisory Committee meeting papers made since January 2021 are publicly available on the CDHB / Waitaha Canterbury website, and these may be located at the following website link: https://www.cdhb.health.nz/about-us/document-library/?_sft_document_type=meeting-minutes

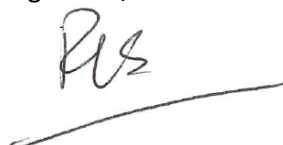
28. All reports discussing increasing patient transfers between hospitals under the new Health New Zealand model, between Jan 2021 to date, held by the DHB.

No such reports have been compiled by nor received by Waitaha Canterbury. This question would be best directed to Health New Zealand who are developing the new health system model.

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 Waitaha Canterbury website after your receipt of this response.

Ngā mihi / Yours sincerely,



Ralph La Salle
Senior Manager, OIAs
Waitaha Canterbury / Te Tai o Poutini West Coast.

10880 Appendix 1

Table one: Outpatient referral to First Specialist Assessment (FSA) – Calendar years

Oncology	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average of Days from Referral to FSA	13.9	15.7	17.1	22.4
Minimum of Days from Referral to FSA	0	0	0	1
Maximum of Days from Referral to FSA	71	59	66	84
Cardiology	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average of Days from Referral to FSA	84.5	75.5	85.2	85.7
Minimum of Days from Referral to FSA	0	1	0	0
Maximum of Days from Referral to FSA	247	336	268	199
Orthopaedic Surgery	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average of Days from Referral to FSA	59.7	62.3	92.2	94.8
Minimum of Days from Referral to FSA	1	0	0	0
Maximum of Days from Referral to FSA	430	323	644	308
Gynaecology	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average of Days from Referral to FSA	98.5	39.4	71.8	89.9
Minimum of Days from Referral to FSA	0	0	0	0
Maximum of Days from Referral to FSA	379	359	444	318
Urology	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average of Days from Referral to FSA	61.4	55.7	78.2	65.3
Minimum of Days from Referral to FSA	1	0	0	0
Maximum of Days from Referral to FSA	427	191	179	183
Respiratory Medicine	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average of Days from Referral to FSA	69.8	58.5	59.6	83.8
Minimum of Days from Referral to FSA	0	0	0	0
Maximum of Days from Referral to FSA	726	412	470	258

Table two: Inpatient surgery – Certainty Date¹ to date of surgery (Elective procedures) – (Days) – Calendar years

Cardiothoracic Surgery	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average of Days from Certainty to Surgery	19.0	28.9	43.8	57.1
Minimum of Days from Certainty to Surgery	0	0	0	1
Maximum of Days from Certainty to Surgery	169	223	302	202
Orthopaedic Surgery	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average of Days from Certainty to Surgery	107.0	105.3	81.3	97.7
Minimum of Days from Certainty to Surgery	0	0	0	1
Maximum of Days from Certainty to Surgery	768	1092	1029	551
Gynaecology	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average of Days from Certainty to Surgery	43.2	54.9	57.0	52.0
Minimum of Days from Certainty to Surgery	0	1	0	1
Maximum of Days from Certainty to Surgery	502	412	433	384
Urology	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average of Days from Certainty to Surgery	57.8	74.6	77.2	65.3
Minimum of Days from Certainty to Surgery	0	0	0	1
Maximum of Days from Certainty to Surgery	518	592	427	412
Cancer Surgery²	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average of Days from Certainty to Surgery	50.4	52.4	55.0	56.5
Minimum of Days from Certainty to Surgery	0	0	0	0
Maximum of Days from Certainty to Surgery	349	483	575	428

Table three: Emergency Department (hours) – Arrival to seen by Doctor

	2019	2020	2021	2022
Average of Hours from Arrival to Seen by Doctor	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.7
Minimum of Hours from Arrival to Seen by Doctor	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Maximum of Hours from Arrival to Seen by Doctor ³	12.0	11.0	10.6	11.8

Notes:

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