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9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10409

I refer to your email dated 7 September 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from the Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

1. **How many patients were on the waiting list for colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?**
2. **What was the average wait time for urgent or category A colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?**
3. **What was the average wait time for non-urgent or category B colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?**
4. **What was the average wait time for surveillance or routine colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?**

Please refer to **Appendix 1** (attached) for information related to Colonoscopies; Referrals and Wait Times between October 2018 and 15 September 2020.

Please note: The Canterbury DHB does not hold data prior to October 2018, as this was the date that the data system SI PICS was first used.

5. **What was the ratio between colonoscopies performed for non-urgent patients, versus patients referred through the National Bowel Screening Programme at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020? (If the screening programme has been rolled out in your DHB area).**

The National Bowel Screening Programme has not yet been rolled out for Canterbury DHB. The target date for the rollout of the National Bowel Screening Programme is the end of October 2020. Therefore, we are declining this part of the request in accordance with 18(g) of the Official Information Act, i.e. *"that the information requested is not held by the department..."*

6. How many of your patients have recovered from colorectal cancer, versus those that died from the disease between August 2019 and August 2020?

The Canterbury DHB does not hold data on numbers of patients that have recovered from colorectal cancer and numbers of patients that have died from colorectal cancer. Therefore, we are declining this part of the request in accordance with 18(g) of the Official Information Act, i.e. *“that the information requested is not held by the department...”*

7. How many colonoscopies lead to a confirmed diagnosis of colorectal cancer each month from August 2018 to August 2020?

This information is not easily available without having to read through multiple results to clarify what has been picked up by a scope or not. This information may be accessible through the cancer registry. Therefore, we are declining this part of the request in accordance with 18(f) of the Official Information Act, i.e. *“that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.”*

8. How many categories does your DHB divide your waiting list into?

What are the criteria for each category?

9. How many people are presently on the colonoscopy waiting list for each of these categories?

10. How long is the average waiting time for each category?

Please refer to **Appendix 1** (attached): Colonoscopies; Referrals and Wait Times between October 2018 and 15 September 2020.

I trust this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz; or Freephone 0800 802 602.

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



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

Colonoscopies; Referrals and Wait Times between October 2018 and 15 September 2020.

Q1: Number of patients on the all waiting list for Colonoscopies at end of each month

Month Year	Total Sum of vol	avg_wt (days)
31/10/2018	1958	62.7
30/11/2018	1791	73.7
31/12/2018	1942	77.0
31/01/2019	1992	77.3
28/02/2019	1922	62.0
31/03/2019	2002	51.7
30/04/2019	1955	47.7
31/05/2019	2009	41.3
30/06/2019	1983	44.3
31/07/2019	1996	41.3
31/08/2019	1915	43.0
30/09/2019	1822	39.0
31/10/2019	1798	34.0
30/11/2019	1652	31.7
31/12/2019	1673	34.7
31/01/2020	1802	37.3
29/02/2020	1726	35.3
31/03/2020	1679	37.0
30/04/2020	1956	48.3
31/05/2020	1994	54.3
30/06/2020	1914	50.0
31/07/2020	1883	44.7
31/08/2020	1797	42.3
Grand Total	43161	48.3

Q2: Number of patients and average waiting time on for Urgent Colonoscopies

Month Year	Urgent	
	Sum of vol	avg_wt(days)
31/10/2018	22	11
30/11/2018	26	17
31/12/2018	21	24
31/01/2019	17	35
28/02/2019	26	16
31/03/2019	34	18
30/04/2019	26	16
31/05/2019	32	11
30/06/2019	32	11
31/07/2019	24	9
31/08/2019	21	17
30/09/2019	29	19
31/10/2019	25	7
30/11/2019	25	12
31/12/2019	28	18
31/01/2020	31	20
29/02/2020	44	15
31/03/2020	19	17
30/04/2020	20	26
31/05/2020	26	20
30/06/2020	21	7
31/07/2020	19	8
31/08/2020	26	10
Grand Total	594	15.8

Q3: Number of patients and average waiting time on for Non-Urgent Colonoscopies

Month Year	Non Urgent	
	Sum of vol	avg_wt(days)
31/10/2018	581	77
30/11/2018	466	92
31/12/2018	467	104
31/01/2019	539	97
28/02/2019	496	86
31/03/2019	490	72
30/04/2019	461	61
31/05/2019	516	52
30/06/2019	549	55
31/07/2019	584	55
31/08/2019	557	58
30/09/2019	542	56
31/10/2019	610	52
30/11/2019	607	57
31/12/2019	611	65
31/01/2020	658	71
29/02/2020	615	74
31/03/2020	647	73
30/04/2020	762	85
31/05/2020	719	102
30/06/2020	691	101
31/07/2020	676	87
31/08/2020	641	81
Grand Total	13485	74.5

Q4: Number of patients and average waiting time on for Surveillance Colonoscopies

Month Year	Surveillance	
	Sum of vol	avg_wt(days)
31/10/2018	540	232
30/11/2018	635	227
31/12/2018	729	226
31/01/2019	677	229
28/02/2019	577	221
31/03/2019	511	208
30/04/2019	471	212
31/05/2019	480	197
30/06/2019	480	203
31/07/2019	431	202
31/08/2019	436	187
30/09/2019	344	185
31/10/2019	303	183
30/11/2019	189	180
31/12/2019	172	172
31/01/2020	159	183
29/02/2020	149	165
31/03/2020	161	170
30/04/2020	228	168
31/05/2020	272	172
30/06/2020	293	171
31/07/2020	309	173
31/08/2020	263	178
Grand Total	8809	193.2

Criteria:

**Same logic as we put against PAT-COL-001. (M25 data and publicly funded) but excluding Surveillance Pending (84 days past TBD has not reached at the month end

Urgent: includes prioritization categories of '1 - Immediate', '2 - Urgent'

Non-Urgent: includes prioritization categories of '3 - Semi-Urgent' New Patients or '4 - Routine' New Patients

Surveillance: includes prioritization categories of '3 - Semi-Urgent' Follow Up Patients or '4 - Routine' Follow Up Patients or '5 - Low Priority

How many people are presently on the colonoscopy waiting list for each of these categories? (as at 15th Sep 2020)

priority_level	vol
Urgent	23
Non Urgent	643
Surveillance	238

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT