

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

26 November 2018

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

RE Official information request CDHB 9965

We refer to your email dated 1 November 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB.

- 1. How many rounds of chemotherapy a patient is entitled to under the DHB**
NB: If this differs between cancers please outline this - otherwise I am specifically asking about breast cancer patients
- 2. What chemotherapy drugs the DHB is funded for, broken down by drug and length of treatment a patient is entitled to?**

Patients and their prescribing clinicians of the Canterbury DHB have access to any cancer and other drug listed by PHARMAC on the NZ Pharmaceutical Schedule – refer <https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/tools-resources/pharmaceutical-schedule/>.

Access to some drugs listed on the Schedule is restricted to patients meeting specific clinical and other criteria. This criteria is set out in applications for funding special authority which are available on the Schedule via the link above.

Patients may access drugs listed on the Schedule with restrictions, for use in circumstances outside these restrictions, and drugs not listed on the Schedule, through their prescriber applying for funding approval in exceptional circumstances – refer: <https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/tools-resources/forms/exceptional-circumstances/>

The number and duration of treatment(s) given to any patient is determined by their need, treatment intent, expected benefit and the impact of side effects.

3. The number of Herceptin treatments in breast cancer patients under the DHB each year, from January 1 2008 - to Nov 1 2018

The number of Herceptin treatments given and number of patients treated with Herceptin each year is as follows:

Calendar Year	Herceptin treatments given	Patients treated with Herceptin
2008	224	42
2009	609	81
2010	653	79
2011	778	84
2012	686	78
2013	618	63
2014	579	80
2015	781	94
2016	810	109
2017	735	93
2018 (to 1 November)	644	94

Please note: patients receiving treatment across more than one calendar year are counted in each year. There have been a total of 489 patients who have received Herceptin through the Canterbury DHB during the period 1 January 2008 and 1 November 2018.

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