

CORPORATE OFFICE

Level 1
32 Oxford Terrace
Christchurch Central
CHRISTCHURCH 8011

Telephone: 0064 3 364 4160
Fax: 0064 3 364 4165
Ralph.Jasalle@cdhb.health.nz

24 November 2020

9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10462

I refer to your email dated 29 October 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Regarding postnatal care. Specifically:

- 1. How long is the average waiting period after a referral to the general gynaecology clinic, urogynaecology clinic or OASIS clinic? How are these triaged?**

The average waiting time to be seen in our general gynaecology and urogynaecology clinics is 68 days. These appointments are triaged based on clinical need in line with Ministry of Health guidelines.

- 2. How long is the average waiting period after a referral for physiotherapy treatment related to women's postnatal health? How are these triaged?**

The average waiting time for physiotherapy treatment is 39 days. These appointments are triaged based on clinical need in line with Ministry of Health guidelines. This will include some referrals for some chronic gynaecological conditions e.g. bladder dysfunction as we were unable to separate the data specifically for postnatal. Women with urgent issues are referred directly and have contact made with physiotherapy within a few days.

Our standard process involves a paper referral for all obstetric anal sphincter injuries (OASIS) and the physiotherapists make contact with all women, usually initially by phone at which stage they discuss symptoms and recovery, give advice and arrange face to face follow up as needed and at an appropriate interval according to the woman's needs.

- 3. What percentage of patients referred for a physiotherapy six week/six month follow up at the perineal tear clinic are seen within that time frame? What are the average wait times?**

The average time from referral to being seen by a physiotherapist with a third-degree tear is 34 days. However, women are not seen within six weeks as they are still healing. They are prioritised to be seen within two weeks (beyond the six-week postnatal period) or from referral. We cannot pull the specific data to give the number of patients seen within their triage time.

4. What percentage of patients referred for a six week/six-month gynaecology/OASIS review are seen within those time frames? What are the average wait times?

Over the past two years 95% of urgent referrals were seen within 28 days and 77.45% of non-urgent referrals were seen within 120 days. The average wait time as mentioned above is 68 days.

5. Does CDHB currently have a full staff roster of gynaecologists and physiotherapists? How many of each work at the DHB and if there are vacancies, how many?

The Obstetrician and Gynaecology FTE is 26 with two FTE currently vacant.
The Physiotherapist FTE is 2.2, with no current vacancy.

I trust 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



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