

# Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

## 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](mailto:carolyn.gullery@cdhb.health.nz)

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[REDACTED]

### RE Official information request CDHB 9895

We refer to your email dated 13 July 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding intentional drug intake incidents that require medical attention at Christchurch Hospital.

1. **The amount of intentional drug-related visits to the Christchurch Hospital A&E per year for the past ten years**
2. **The number of overdose incidents brought in for treatment through A&E at the Christchurch hospital per year for the past ten years?**
3. **The number of spiking/drugging incidents brought in for treatment through A&E at the Christchurch hospital per year for the past ten years?**

Patients who attend ED will receive a presenting diagnosis but this is not always a reliable indicator of whether the cause was intentional drug consumption, drug overdose or a spiking / drugging incident.

For example, the presenting diagnosis of person arriving such as confused condition/delirium or seizure will not necessarily identify whether this is drug induced or due to another cause. Only those subsequently admitted to hospital would receive further investigation with secondary or causal factors diagnosed (please refer below).

With more than 100,000 people presenting to ED each year it would require a manual search of the case notes for the more than 60,000 people presenting to our Emergency Department (A&E) each year and who are discharged home. We are declining to answer these questions above under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act namely that would require substantial collation and research.

#### 4. The number of admissions to the Christchurch Hospital due to intentional drug related incidents

Patients admitted into inpatient care through ED constitute 44% of the total number presenting at ED. As explained above, it is at this point that a more detailed or comprehensive diagnosis will be made.

Table one below show inpatient admissions at Christchurch Hospital due to intentional drug related incidents.

**Table one:** Inpatient admissions at Christchurch Hospital due to intentional drug related incidents.

Financial year	Inpatient admissions	Individual patients
2008/09	684	550
2009/10	719	560
2010/11	804	600
2011/12	760	579
2012/13	710	556
2013/14	1032	750
2014/15	1041	765
2015/16	1047	806
2016/17	1165	901
2017/18	1282	951

**Notes:**

- The variance in admissions against individual patient numbers is due to some people being admitted more than once.
- The increase in activity from 2012/13 to 2013/14 reflects a change in the practice of recording drug related incidents and is not a true increase in presentations.

#### 5. The number of ambulance call outs to treat a person due to intentional drug ingestion.

Canterbury DHB does not hold this information and is therefore declining a response to this question under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act

If you disagree with our decision to withhold information you may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek an investigation and review of our decision from the Ombudsman.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website ten working days after your receipt of this response.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery  
**Executive Director**  
**Planning, Funding & Decision Support**