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9(2)(a)

RE Official information request CDHB 10289

We refer to your email dated 16 March 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

- **Is the drug Avastin – used to treat cancers – administered to any patients in the DHBs public hospitals?**

Avastin is a medicine registered by Medsafe but not funded by PHARMAC to treat cancer patients in New Zealand. As such it is not used to treat cancers in Canterbury DHB owned facilities.

- **If so, what is the drug used to treat and how many patients are treated with it?**

Avastin is used as the first line treatment for neovascular age-related macular degeneration (“wet” ARMD), diabetic maculopathy and retinal vein occlusions with associated macular oedema. There are a variety of other less common indications, for example proliferative diabetic retinopathy, neovascular glaucoma and corneal neovascularisation. Avastin is the brand name for the drug called bevacizumab.

Please refer to **Appendix 1** (attached) for the following:

- **Table one:** Avastin volumes In-Patient and Out-patient – Financial Years 2006/2007 – 2019/2020 Year to Date and
- **Table two:** Avastin volumes In-Patient and Out-Patient – Calendar Years 2006 – 2020 Year to Date

For more information I refer you to our HealthInfo website which is publicly available.
<https://www.healthinfo.org.nz/>

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

Appendix 1 – Avastin volumes

Table one: Avastin volumes In-Patient and Out-patient – Christchurch Hospital - Financial Years 2006/2007 – 2019/2020 Year to Date

	Financial Years													
Ophthalmology	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20 YTD
Inpatient	57	419	628	796	980	1,120	954	354	201	152	840	385	490	36
Outpatient						79	628	1,652	2,111	3,572	3,366	4,348	4,372	4,087
Total	57	419	628	796	980	1,199	1,582	2,006	2,312	3,724	4,206	4,733	4,862	4,123

Table two: Avastin volumes In-Patient and Out-patient – Christchurch Hospital – Calendar years 2006/2007 – 2019/2020 Year to Date

	Calendar Years														
Ophthalmology	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020 YTD
Inpatient	6	216	574	723	866	1,037	1,225	585	145	229	533	553	369	339	12
Outpatient						35	116	1,268	1,932	2,753	3,508	3,907	4,399	4,531	1,766
Total	6	216	574	723	866	1,072	1,341	1,853	2,077	2,982	4,041	4,460	4,768	4,870	1,778

Notes Prior to 2011/2012 Avastin injections were carried out as Ophthalmology Inpatient events. At this time the volumes of Avastin injections was low as it was still a relatively new therapy.

At the beginning of the 2011/2012 year the Ministry introduced a change to the WIESNZ methodology and to the elective surgery health target. As long as they were reported as inpatient events and met the criteria, Avastin injections were reported under a different PUC, S40004 - Minor Eye Procedures.

As before, this new PUC represented a split of existing surgical activity, and did not introduce previously excluded activity into the elective surgical volumes. From the beginning of the 2014/2015 year Avastin events were given a specific PUC to use, S40007 – Intraocular injections, and S40004 was retired.

As a result of increasing volumes, Avastin injections were moved so that the majority (over 95%) are now carried out as Outpatient events