

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

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9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10239

I refer to your letter dated 21 November 2019 and received in our office on 10 December 2019, requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding Bariatric Surgery.

Bariatric Surgery in the South Island is provided through the South Island Bariatric Surgery Service programme which has a specified pathway: a GP referral is required for a Specialist assessment. The assessment is scored against the National Prioritisation Tool. If the score is sufficient the Specialist sends the referral and assessment documentation to the South Island Bariatric Surgery Service Multi-Disciplinary Selection Committee for review and confirmation of acceptance.

Responses to the specific questions are:

1. What are the pre-requisites for bariatric surgery?

Inclusion Criteria:

- age 18 - 60 years
- BMI – 40

Absolute Exclusion Criteria:

- Current smoker
- Cirrhosis or portal hypertension
- Active 'non trivial' malignancy
- Severe cardiac disability
- Respiratory disease – severe COPD or cor pulmonale
- Crohn disease
- Non-dietary irreversible causes of obesity e.g. neurological (Prada-Willi)
- Uncontrolled psychiatric or neurological conditions e.g. psychosis, severe neurosis, personality disorder, addiction or brain injury
- Severe eating disorder e.g. binge eating, anorexia nervosa, bulimia

2. How many Bariatric (stomach stapling) surgeries are done per annum (2015-2019)?

| | |
|---------|----|
| 2014/15 | 52 |
| 2015/16 | 50 |
| 2016/17 | 48 |
| 2017/18 | 57 |
| 2018/19 | 58 |

Please note that no stomach stapling operations are performed. Gastric sleeve or gastric bypass operations are performed as clinically indicated for a patient.

3. How does a person become eligible for Bariatric Surgery and what measures must a patient undertake before bariatric surgery is approved?

The patient must:

- meet the Inclusion Criteria of age and BMI
- not have Absolute Exclusion Criteria
- meet relative exclusion criteria within clinically acceptable ranges
- have satisfactory iron, urinary protein, creatinine, lipids, and liver function test results

4. How long is the average wait list for bariatric surgery?

For patients who were accepted for surgery in 2018/19 and had surgery in 2018/19 the following median timeframes applied:

The median GP to first specialist assessment timeframe was 75.5 days

The median FSA to Multi-Disciplinary Selection Committee consideration was 18 days

The median MDSC consideration to surgery was 232.5 days.

5. Are there special requirements for those in prison to meet eligibility requirements?

There are no special eligibility requirements for people in prison. The criteria are clinical indications.

6. Is there special funding for Maori who need bariatric surgery?

There is no special bariatric surgery funding for Māori. The percentage of patients who have their ethnicity recorded as Māori and have had bariatric surgery under the programme was 12% in 2018/19 which is consistent with prior years.

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