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RE Official information request CDHB 10527

I refer to your email dated 19 January 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

- **For 2020, the number of screens for diabetic retinopathy purchased, the number of screens delivered, and the DNA rate.**

During the calendar year 2020, there were 2,023 screens that were purchased and delivered in the community by Canterbury DHB through community optometrists, and another 5,586 screens were delivered by DHB services at Burwood Hospital.

The Did Not Attend (DNA) rate for the community is approximately 2.9% and the DNA rate at the DHB Burwood Hospital site is approximately 10.8%. The reasons that patients Did Not Attend are due to the following: patients chose not to re-engage with the service; were issued a new appointment; or the patients are deceased.

- **The estimated number of people living with diabetes within the DHB.**

As at 31 December 2020, the number of people enrolled with a PHO who have been diagnosed with Diabetes 1 or 2 in Canterbury is 23,266.

- **How many diabetic retinopathy screening episodes were delivered during lockdown, and how long any disruption lasted (i.e when did screening return to 'normal').**

Between 26 March and 8 June 2020, 66 screens were reported from community optometrists in Canterbury and 215 screens were delivered at Burwood Hospital. Screening returned to "normal" (an average of 197 screens/month in the community and 522 screens/month at Burwood Hospital per month) by June 2020. During July – November 2020, extra screens were performed to catch up the backlog from the lockdown period.

- **On January 1 2021, how many new referrals were on the wait list for their first screening visit, the average time spent on this wait list, and the longest individual time spent waiting.**

Patients who are referred for retinopathy screening within Canterbury DHB are first triaged. Those with vision problems or suspected retinopathy are screened right away and thereafter followed up according to their risk of retinopathy. Those patients categorised as lower risk at presentation are scheduled for screens according to capacity.

As at 1 January 2021:

- 1,119 people were waiting for an FSA (First Specialist Appointment).
 - The average time people were waiting for their first screen was 132 days.
 - The person waiting the longest for their first screen (FSA) was waiting 456 days. This patient was categorised as lower risk.
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- **On January 1 2021, how many existing patients were overdue for their follow up screening appointment, the average overdue time, and the longest individual time overdue.**

The data reported below is from Canterbury DHB's new patient management system, SI PICS:

- On Jan 1, 2021 4,384 people were "overdue" for their follow up screening appointment.
- The average overdue time is 109 days.
- The individual with the longest time overdue has had 182 days pass since their intended follow-up screen appointment. A patient is considered overdue when they have been waiting longer than their Treat By Date displayed in the waitlist.
(**Note:** this patient is in a low priority category and has had 878 days pass since their previous scan. This interval is within the national guidelines for 3 yearly scans.)

Please note: By mid-2018 Canterbury DHB had migrated to the new patient management system SI PICS. As a result, there were some data issues showing for a group of patients with follow up screening appointments that had been inherited from the previous data system. This group of patients was consequently removed from the analysis to ensure a more accurate reporting of numbers.

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