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RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10171

I refer to your email dated 21 August 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury.

Wait times for five common elective procedures: knee replacement, hip replacement, hernia surgery, colonoscopy, and laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

- 1. For each procedure, please say how many people met the clinical threshold and were accepted as needing the procedure each year for the past five years.**

Please refer to **Table one** (below) for the number of people added to the waitlist for your requested elective procedures above over the past five years.

Table one:

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Knee	533	631	742	671	735
Hip	574	687	795	636	752
Colonoscopy	2145	2235	2439	2955	2966
Hernia	308	364	676	701	616
Cholecystectomy	297	314	343	452	399

- 2. For each procedure, please say how many elective procedures were performed each year for the past five years.**

Please refer to **Table two** (overleaf) for the number of elective procedures performed each year for the past five years.

Table two: Number of elective procedures performed over past five years.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Knee	468	522	603	613	559
Hip	499	612	661	594	595
Colonoscopy	2385	2145	2389	2324	2497
Hernia	405	570	765	824	618
Cholecystectomy	377	409	400	469	336

3. For each procedure, what was the average wait time from acceptance (referral accepted and meets threshold) to the procedure being performed each year for the past five years.

Please refer to **Table three** (below) for the average wait time from acceptance to the procedure being performed for the past five years by days and **Table four** (below) for the average wait time in months.

Table three: Average wait time by days.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Knee	85	77	65	78	110
Hip	76	68	59	72	101
Colonoscopy	41	36	36	65	60
Hernia	69	58	66	57	63
Cholecystectomy	63	48	49	42	46

Table four: Average wait time by months.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Knee	2.8	2.6	2.2	2.6	3.7
Hip	2.5	2.3	2.0	2.4	3.4
Colonoscopy	1.4	1.2	1.2	2.2	2.0
Hernia	2.3	1.9	2.2	1.9	2.1
Cholecystectomy	2.1	1.6	1.6	1.4	1.5

4. For each procedure, what was the longest single wait time from acceptance to the procedure being performed? Please provide the information for each year for the past five years.

Please refer to **Table five** (below) for the longest single wait time from acceptance to the procedure being performed by days and **Table six** (below) for the longest wait time by months.

Table five: Longest wait time by days.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Knee	235	276	211	286	306
Hip	263	205	163	245	266
Colonoscopy	156	134	121	275	260
Hernia	163	166	220	214	286
Cholecystectomy	187	171	203	165	284

Table six: Longest wait time by months.

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Knee	7.8	9.2	7.0	9.5	10.2
Hip	8.8	6.8	5.4	8.2	8.9
Colonoscopy	5.2	4.5	4.0	9.2	8.7
Hernia	5.4	5.5	7.3	7.1	9.5
Cholecystectomy	6.2	5.7	6.8	5.5	9.5

Note: When looking at single longest waits, these are patients who doctors have chosen to keep on the wait list while other clinical needs are attended to. For example, one patient experienced a cancer diagnosis prior to knee surgery and had to undergo surgery for that condition prior to their knee surgery.

5. If there has been an increase in wait times, what was the reason?

It is hard to answer your question because it is so far reaching and can be very specific and detailed. In general the reasons for increase in wait times are

Orthopaedics – hips and knees – the average wait time trend is within normal variation – the increase in 18/19 can be mostly attributed to the effects of the 15 March events where we had to convert a number of surgical sessions to acute case load at the detriment of elective cases. Patients and staff acknowledged this and we are working to reduce back to normal wait times.

Colonoscopy – The increase in wait time here is mostly attributable to the increased awareness of bowel cancer we have seen in the 17/18 and 18/19 year. There has been over a 20% increase in referrals with the implementation of the bowel screening programme nationally as well as other informational and awareness programmes relating to various cancers. This rapid increase combined with the limited supply of trained professionals to undertake the increased workload and the inflexibility or unavailability of additional facilities has led to increased wait times.

Hernia and Cholecystectomy – these wait times are within normal variation patterns.

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



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