

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

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23 August 2018

Malcolm Rickerby and Neil Woodhams

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RE Official information request CDHB 9904

We refer to your letter dated 24 July 2018 and received on 27 July 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding services experienced in our DHB by people with Multiple Sclerosis, with a particular focus on Neurology services. Specifically Waiting Times.

1. **What is the current waiting time for:**
 - a) **First specialist neurology outpatients' appointment?**
 - b) **Follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment?**
 - c) **Outpatient MRI?**
 - d) **Outpatient infusion clinic appointment?**
 - e) **Outpatient Psychotherapy appointment?**
 - f) **Outpatient Physiotherapy appointment?**
 - g) **Outpatient Occupational Therapy appointment**

We are unable to answer your specific questions above without substantial collation or research. We are therefore declining under section 18(f) of the Official Information Act.

We can tell you however that we are committed to seeing patients for first specialist appointments within the specified four month wait time priority of the Ministry of Health.

Wait times for follow up specialist appointments vary depending on the individual's clinical need. Some patients may need immediate follow up and others may need follow up after a longer period.

If it is clear from the referral that it is MS then these patients may either be seen in a nurse clinic within two to three weeks if they are on-drug or it is progressive; if the referral is of a simple nature and can be answered quickly, a letter back to the referrer is completed within the week; otherwise the

wait time is as per above. All patients with relapsing MS who have had an acute relapse are seen within three to five days as they are triaged as 'acute'.

For new appointments, most patients are seen within 120 days, most follow-ups are seen within 90 days.

Note: Follow-up appointments depend on a number of factors and are often decided, together by the patient and their specialist, on clinical needs.

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 ten working days after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping underline.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support