

20 September 2022

9(2)(a)

9(2)(a) **Trans Men Wait List for Top Surgery (Primary) – REF#HNZ00003912**

RE ChChD 10953 / HNZ 3963 & WCD 9739 / HNZ 3964

I refer to your email received 15 September 2022 requesting the following information from Waitaha Canterbury / Te Tai o Poutini West Coast.

- 1. What is the current wait list across Health NZ for trans men waiting for top surgery?**
- 2. In what situations is a patient prioritised for top surgery?"**

Waitaha Canterbury:

For patients referred for transmasculine chest reconstruction (top) surgery:

There are currently 41 patients on the waitlist for a First Specialist Assessment (FSA) for top surgery.

Patients are selected by a number randomisation technique for selection for clinical assessment which occurs at roughly six-monthly intervals. During this clinical appointment the patient is assessed to ascertain that they meet the criteria for surgery. They are then added to the surgical waiting list.

The reason for the use of a number randomisation technique is to ensure equity of access is maintained, because with the decision in 2019 to provide surgery for five transgender cases per annum there was a fast uptake by informed GPs sending in referrals for their patients, creating a demand that exceeds capacity. The number randomisation technique ensures we maintain equity within and around transgender and general plastic surgery patients.

The average time on the surgical wait list currently is six months (i.e. time from being entered onto the waiting list until surgery is performed).

Te Tai o Poutini West Coast

Te Tai o Poutini West Coast does not perform top surgery.

Ngā mihi / Yours sincerely,



Ralph La Salle
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Waitaha Canterbury / Te Tai o Poutini West Coast.

[TeWhatuOra.govt.nz](https://www.tewhatuora.govt.nz)

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New Zealand Government