

What are the overall quarter four 2012/13 health target results?

Nationally four health targets have been met this quarter:

- Improved access to elective surgery target (107% against a target of 100%)
- Shorter waits for cancer treatment (100% against a target of 100%)
- Increased immunisation (90% against a target of 85%)
- Better help for smokers to quit hospital target (96% against a target of 95%).

All DHBs achieved the cancer and electives health targets and 18 DHB achieved the immunisation and tobacco hospital targets. Over the past 12 months, DHBs have delivered 10,000 more elective surgical discharges than planned.

How did each health target perform?

Shorter stays in emergency departments

National performance in the Shorter stays in emergency departments target decreased by 0.5 percent to 93.49 percent this quarter. This is also a 0.3 percent decrease on the same period last year. Twelve DHBs achieved the target for quarter four 2012/13, compared to 11 in quarter three and nine in quarter two 2012/13.

Improved access to elective surgery

The national Improved access to elective surgery target has been achieved, with 158,482 elective surgical discharges provided, against a target of 148,259 discharges. This is 10,223 (7 percent) more than planned. All 20 DHBs achieved their quarter four target.

Shorter waits for cancer treatment

Nationally, 100 percent of patients, who were ready-for-treatment, received their radiotherapy or chemotherapy within four weeks of the decision to treat.

All DHBs achieved the Shorter waits for cancer target for quarter four 2012/13. This continues the strong performance since the chemotherapy wait times were included in the cancer target for the first time in quarter one 2012/13.

Increased immunisation

The Increased immunisation health target has been achieved. The eight-month national immunisation coverage for the fourth quarter is 90 percent, an increase of 1.2 percent on quarter three and 5 percent above the target for July 2013. During quarter four 18 DHBs have achieved the target.

Better help for smokers to quit

The hospital component of the Better help for smokers to quit target was 95.8 percent with 18 DHBs achieving the target. National performance for the primary care target was 56.9 percent. Although this result is still well below the 90 percent target, it represents a significant increase of 17 percent since quarter one 2012/13.

More heart and diabetes checks

The More heart and diabetes checks target reached 67 percent this quarter, an improvement of 8.2 percent compared with quarter three and an 18.3 percent improvement over the past year. Four DHBs met the 75 percent target this quarter. While most CVD Risk Assessments are conducted face-to-face with a health professional, some include data based on a review of patient information in a non-face-to-face context. If any indication of increased risk is found, risk estimates should be communicated to the patient and followed up.

What are the changes to the health targets in 2013/14?

Shorter stays in emergency department target

Since the Shorter stays in the emergency department health target began it has been applied to level 3, 4, 5 and 6 emergency departments (EDs). From 1 July 2013 the target will include some additional ED facilities that are classed as level 2 EDs.

What is a level two emergency department?

EDs are categorised as level 2 to level 6. Level 6 departments are those at our biggest hospitals with all associated services.

The level 1 category refers to general practitioner (GP) emergency or acute services and are not considered to be EDs. These services are excluded from the health target. Level 2 EDs have some of the characteristics of both a GP or community based service and a hospital ED. Some function like higher level hospital EDs, and some are more in keeping with small community hospital facilities staffed by local GPs.

Why are some level 2 emergency departments being included?

The Ministry of Health, in consultation with DHBs, has determined that the level 2 ED facilities that function like higher level hospital EDs should be included in the target so they are subject to the same quality improvement aspirations. Not all level 2 EDs are included as smaller hospitals which serve a community well, but do not function like a higher level hospital ED, might be disadvantaged if required to aspire to a target which does not match their needs.

Other health target changes

The Increased immunisation target and the More heart and diabetes checks target both increase to 90 percent.