



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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19 October 2018

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RE Official information request WCDHB 9215

We refer to your email request dated 21 September 2018 which was partially transferred to the West Coast DHB from the Ministry of Health on 24 September 2018 seeking the following information under the Official Information Act regarding ECT (Electroconvulsive Therapy). Specifically questions 5, 6 and 7:

- 5. How many people were left brain damaged by ECT in the last ten years?**
- 6. How many people have been followed up on after receiving ECT to see if they have improved or become worse?**

West Coast DHB has not undertaken any Electro-convulsive Therapy (ECT) treatments on patients in the last ten years. Patients requiring treatment are referred to Canterbury DHB.

We do not systematically collect information on injuries to patients from the West Coast who are treated at other DHBs, and do not have routine standardised testing for determining 'brain damage' that may have been specifically caused or exacerbated through ECT compared to or excluding any other causal and contributory factors.

As per Canterbury DHB protocols, all people who receive ECT remain under the care of their treating psychiatrist for a period of time, which is determined by their clinical need. During this time, people's mental state continues to be monitored for both signs of relapse of their illness and ongoing cognitive problems.

7. How much does each ECT treatment cost?

Please refer to Canterbury DHB response.

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 West Coast DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

Greg Hamilton
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support