



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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26 November 2018

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RE Official information request WCDHB 9234

We refer to your request dated 1 November 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB.

- 1. How many rounds of chemotherapy a patient is entitled to under the DHB**
NB: If this differs between cancers please outline this - otherwise I am specifically asking about breast cancer patients
- 2. What chemotherapy drugs the DHB is funded for, broken down by drug and length of treatment a patient is entitled to?**

Patients and their prescribing clinicians of the West Coast DHB have access to any cancer and other drug listed by PHARMAC on the NZ Pharmaceutical Schedule – refer <https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/tools-resources/pharmaceutical-schedule/>

Access to some drugs listed on the Schedule is restricted to patients meeting specific clinical and other criteria. This criteria is set out in applications for funding special authority which are available on the Schedule via the link above.

Patients may access drugs listed on the Schedule with restrictions, for use in circumstances outside these restrictions, and drugs not listed on the Schedule, through their prescriber applying for funding approval in exceptional circumstances – refer: <https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/tools-resources/forms/exceptional-circumstances>

The number and duration of treatment(s) given to any patient is determined by their need, treatment intent, expected benefit and the impact of side effects.

3. The number of Herceptin treatments in breast cancer patients under the DHB each year, from January 1 2008 - to Nov 1 2018

The number of Herceptin treatments given and number of patients treated with Herceptin each year is as follows:

Calendar Year	Herceptin treatments given	Patients treated with Herceptin
2008	-	-
2009	13	4
2010	26	6
2011	58	6
2012	69	9
2013	25	3
2014	61	9
2015	60	9
2016	50	8
2017	25	5
2018 (to 1 November)	10	3

Please note: patients receiving treatment across more than one calendar year are counted in each year. There have been a total of 33 patients who have received Herceptin through the West Coast DHB during the period 1 January 2008 and 1 November 2018.

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



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support