



# West Coast District Health Board

## Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

Corporate Office  
High Street, Greymouth 7840

Telephone 03 769-7400  
Fax 03 769-7791

24 December 2018

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]  
  
[REDACTED]  
  
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### RE Official information request WCDHB 9251

We refer to your email dated 26 November 2018 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding hospital admissions related to adverse drug reactions for each of the 2015/16, 2016/17, and 2017/18 Financial Years. I note this was clarified as 'Prescription' drugs.

- 1. The total number of admissions to hospital each year.**
- 2. The average (both mean and median) bed stay of patients admitted to hospital each year.**

Please refer to **Table One** (below) for the total number of admissions to our hospitals for the financial years 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18, and the average (both mean and median) bed stay of these patients.

**Table One**

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of admissions	6720	6647	7422
Average Length of Stay	2.49 days	2.80 days	2.36 days
Median Length of Stay	0.83 days	0.79 days	0.75 days

This data excludes long stay age residential care clients in our hospital facilities during these periods.

- 3. The total number of admissions to hospital in relation to adverse drug reactions each year.**  
*(clarified as: "adverse drug reactions" to be defined as an "unwanted or harmful reaction experienced following the administration of a drug or combination of drugs under normal conditions of use and is suspected to be related to the drug.")*

Please refer to **Table Two** below for the total number of admissions to hospital in relation to Adverse (prescription) Drug Reactions (ADR), including cases where there was a subsequent ADR for patients already admitted for other matters, each year for the financial years 2015/16, 2016/17 and 2017/18.

**Table Two**

	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18
Number of admissions	104	129	162
Average LOS	3.20 days	4.63 days	3.66 days
Median LOS	1.92 days	2.10 days	1.71 days

**4. The total cost of admissions in relation to adverse drug reactions each year.**

West Coast DHB does not have a costing system that allows us to determine the financial cost of adverse drug reactions in financial terms.

**5. The total number of admissions to hospital in relation to adverse drug reactions each year which were preventable.**

**Clarified as:** “preventable ADR admission” to be defined as an “ADRs caused by medication errors, whether they be acts of omission or commission, incorrect medication/dose/timing, administration of a medication to a patient with a known allergy, inadequate monitoring, or other errors.”)

**6. The total cost of the preventable admissions.**

**7. The average (both mean and median) bed stay of patients admitted to hospital in relation to adverse drug reactions which were preventable.**

The information requested is not routinely collected, so we do not have any data available. For this reason, we are declining to provide specific information under Section 18 (f) of the Official Information Act; *that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.*

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**