



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9347

I refer to your email dated 13 September 2019 requesting information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. We note in your request that your questions below refer to the 2018-2019 financial year and to West Coast based residents.

1. How many referrals to First Specialist Appointments from GPs for elective orthopaedic surgery?

During the period 1 July 2018 to the 30 June 2019, a total of 678 people were referred to the Orthopaedic Department on the West Coast. This excludes multiple referrals for the same patient.

2. How many accepted onto waiting list?

During the period 1 July 2018 to the 30 June 2019, a total of 194 people were accepted on to the Orthopaedic Department outpatient waiting list on the West Coast for a First Specialist Assessment (FSA).

3. How many referred back to GP because considered below the threshold for service?

Of those referred during 2018/19, 484 referrals were returned as they were either below threshold, or had insufficient information to make a clinical decision, were not eligible for New Zealand healthcare, were inappropriate referrals, or were for service that was not required, or for a referral query that could be met by written advice from the Specialist back to the referring General Practice.

Among the 484 total, the number returned back to their GP because they were below clinical threshold was 359. During this period, 308 people attended their FSA appointment on the West Coast, with a further 477 local attendances made for an orthopaedic follow up appointment.

4. How many referred back to GP even though on or above the threshold for service?

None. 100% of referrals that met the threshold in the year were accepted.

5. How many elective orthopaedic surgeries performed at Grey Base Hospital?

During the 2018/19 financial year, there have been 487 orthopaedic public (non-ACC) patients discharged from Grey Base Hospital, including 242 acute patients and 245 elective (arranged and waiting list) patients. Of these, 80 acute patients and 186 elective cases had surgical procedures undertaken.

6. How many elective orthopaedic surgeries for West Coast based residents performed at Christchurch Hospital?

There were 89 elective orthopaedic surgical discharges from Christchurch for West Coast residents in the 2018/19 financial year.

7. How many orthopaedic surgeons on the WCDHB roster?

At the start of May 2019, we had a new orthopaedic surgeon join the roster, thus increasing the number of orthopaedic surgeons on the West Coast DHB roster to six.

Explanatory notes:

West Coast residents generally have a higher rate of clinical review at FSA for orthopaedic outpatient services in terms of standardized intervention rates per 10,000. (Standardised Intervention rates per 10,000 population takes into account features of the resident population such as gender mix, age profiles, ethnicity make up, and features of relative deprivation of the population).

West Coast orthopaedic interventions are reflected in the following data for the year to 31 March 2019:

- West Coast residents were provided with 98.92 FSAs per 10,000 resident population. For Canterbury, the comparative standardized intervention rate for the same period was lower at 85.91 FSAs per 10,000 resident population. West Coast DHB's rate was not significantly different from the national level of FSAs per 10,000 residents.
- West Coast residents were provided with hip and knee replacement surgical intervention rate of 32.12 procedures per 10,000 resident population - the highest rate among any DHB in the country. For Canterbury, the comparative standardized intervention rate for the same period was lower at 23.36 procedures per 10,000 resident population. West Coast DHB surgical intervention rates for these major joint procedures remains significantly above national levels per 10,000 residents.
- West Coast residents were provided with an elective (arranged and waiting list) orthopaedic surgical intervention rate for discharges with an operating room procedure of 52.81 procedures per 10,000 resident population. For Canterbury, the comparative standardized intervention rate for the same period was lower at 39.02 procedures per 10,000 resident population. West Coast DHB surgical intervention rates for overall elective orthopedic surgical intervention procedures remains significantly above national levels per 10,000 residents.

This pattern, where West Coast residents have received surgery at a higher standardised intervention rate than Canterbury residents for hip, knee, and other elective orthopaedic surgery as well as FSAs, has been consistent over the past five years.

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



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Planning, Funding & Decision Support