



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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9(2)(a)

RE Official information request WCDHB 9469

I refer to your email dated 7 September 2020 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

- 1. How many patients were on the waiting list for colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?**
- 2. What was the average wait time for urgent or category A colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?**
- 3. What was the average wait time for non-urgent or category B colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?**
- 4. What was the average wait time for surveillance or routine colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?**

In response to questions 1 to 4 above, West Coast DHB generally delivers prompt access to providing colonoscopy in accordance with individual patient priority. This performance is reflected in our results in achieving the Ministry of Health's timeliness measures for meeting waiting times for patients to receive colonoscopy according to their prioritisation. These prioritisations are as follows:

- Urgent – need to receive procedure within 14 days (2 weeks) of acceptance of referral.
- Non-urgent - need to receive procedure within 42 days (6 weeks) or less of acceptance of referral.
- Surveillance – those accepted for a surveillance colonoscopy whose planned procedure is due prior to or within the month need to receive their procedure undertaken within 84 days (12 weeks) or less.

Please refer to **Appendix 1** (attached) for a summary of our wait time performance in each month over the past two-year period and up to 31 July 2020. Wait times for colonoscopies at Grey Hospital were extended beyond target during, and in the aftermath, of the March – May Covid 19 pandemic response period at Alert Levels 4 and 3. Wait time compliance against target had recovered by July.

Clinical practice against standards for delivery of colonoscopies is overseen by our DHB's Endoscopy User Group.

- 5. What was the ratio between colonoscopies performed for non-urgent patients, versus patients referred through the National Bowel Screening Programme at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020? (If the screening programme has been rolled out in your DHB area).**

West Coast DHB has not commenced participation in the National Bowel Screening Programme at this time.

6. How many of your patients have recovered from colorectal cancer, versus those that died from the disease between August 2019 and August 2020?

We do not hold data figures on patients recovered over time, nor do we hold data of cause of death for people due to colorectal disease during this time period. We therefore decline to provide this information under Section 18(g) of the Official Information Act, i.e. "...the information requested is not held". The latter information may potentially be available from either the Department of Internal Affairs, who hold the national registers for births, marriages and deaths; or from the Ministry of Health. They may be able to provide a summary of deaths in the community due to colon cancers if they hold up-to-date records for the time period you are seeking.

7. How many colonoscopies lead to a confirmed diagnosis of colorectal cancer each month from August 2018 to August 2020?

Please refer to **Appendix 2** (attached) for a summary of colonoscopies from our waiting list that have lead to confirmed diagnosis of colorectal cancer over the past two-year period and up to 31 July 2020.

8. How many categories does your DHB divide your waiting list into? What are the criteria for each category?

West Coast DHB does not divide our colonoscopy waiting list into categories; all go on to a singular Endoscopy waiting list. Within this list, patients are given a prioritisation of urgency according to national definitions; Urgent, Non-urgent, and Surveillance as described in summary in the answer to questions 1-4 above.

9. How many people are presently on the colonoscopy waiting list for each of these categories?

Waiting lists are dynamic and change from day to day. At the time of writing, and excluding surveillance cases, as these are pre-planned to future periodic reviews, there were a total of 62 non-urgent cases waiting for colonoscopy. There were no urgent cases waiting.

10. How long is the average waiting time for each category?

The average waiting time for of those currently waiting at the time of writing is 19.02 days.

I trust this satisfies your interest in this matter.

You may, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, seek a review of our decision to withhold information by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz; or Freephone 0800 802 602.

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



Ralph La Salle
Acting Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support

Appendix 1: Patients receiving diagnostic colonoscopy within required timeframes

		2018						2019					
		July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Urgent Colonoscopy (Target: 90% achievement)	Waiting or scoped in 14 days (2 weeks) or less	5	2	1	3	2	2	0	7	3	1	6	5
	Total number waiting or scoped	5	2	1	4	3	3	0	7	3	1	8	5
	% of urgent colonoscopies in less than 2 weeks (14 days)	100%	100%	100%	75.0%	66.7%	66.7%	100%	100%	100%	100%	75.0%	100%
Non-Urgent Colonoscopy (Target: 70% achievement)	Waiting or scoped in 42 days (6 weeks) or less	106	78	74	82	84	62	46	48	46	59	45	46
	Total number waiting or scoped	110	93	92	92	89	64	47	48	46	59	45	46
	% of non-urgent colonoscopies in 42 days (6 weeks) or less	96.4%	83.9%	80.4%	89.1%	94.4%	96.9%	97.9%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Surveillance Colonoscopy (Target: 70% achievement)	Waiting or scoped in 14 days (2 weeks) or less	22	30	28	24	18	16	27	28	36	40	50	54
	Total number waiting or scoped	24	33	34	31	22	18	27	29	37	43	56	63
	% of urgent colonoscopies in less than 2 weeks (14 days)	91.7%	90.9%	82.4%	77.4%	81.8%	88.9%	100%	96.6%	97.3%	93.0%	89.3%	85.7%

		2019						2020					
		July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	April	May	June
Urgent Colonoscopy (Target: 90% achievement)	Waiting or scoped in 14 days (2 weeks) or less	6	2	3	2	4	5	2	3	6	3	2	3
	Total number waiting or scoped	6	2	3	2	4	5	2	3	6	4	3	3
	% of urgent colonoscopies in less than 2 weeks (14 days)	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	75%	67%	100%
Non-Urgent Colonoscopy (Target: 70% achievement)	Waiting or scoped in 42 days (6 weeks) or less	62	82	85	80	80	62	51	66	81	47	50	56
	Total number waiting or scoped	62	82	85	81	82	63	53	66	81	83	100	91
	% of non-urgent colonoscopies in 42 days (6 weeks) or less	100%	100%	100%	98.8%	97.6%	98.4%	96.2%	100%	100%	56.6%	50.0%	61.5%
Surveillance Colonoscopy (Target: 70% achievement)	Waiting or scoped in 14 days (2 weeks) or less	56	42	52	43	35	26	27	35	38	40	42	43
	Total number waiting or scoped	67	48	55	54	50	53	47	50	45	50	60	65
	% of urgent colonoscopies in less than 2 weeks (14 days)	83.6%	87.5%	94.5%	79.6%	70.0%	49.1%	57.4%	70.0%	84.4%	80.0%	70.0%	66.2%

		Jul-20
Urgent Colonoscopy (Target: 90% achievement)	Waiting or scoped in 14 days (2 weeks) or less	5
	Total number waiting or scoped	5
	% of urgent colonoscopies in less than 2 weeks (14 days)	100%
Non-Urgent Colonoscopy (Target: 70% achievement)	Waiting or scoped in 42 days (6 weeks) or less	79
	Total number waiting or scoped	83
	% of non-urgent colonoscopies in 42 days (6 weeks) or less	95.2%
Surveillance Colonoscopy (Target: 70% achievement)	Waiting or scoped in 14 days (2 weeks) or less	53
	Total number waiting or scoped	71
	% of urgent colonoscopies in less than 2 weeks (14 days)	74.6%

Appendix 2: Colonoscopies from waiting list that lead to confirmed diagnosis of colorectal cancer

Year / Month		Cases where waiting list colonoscopy confirmed colorectal cancer
2018	August	1
	September	1
	October	2
	November	0
	December	1
2019	January	0
	February	0
	March	0
	April	1
	May	2
	June	1
	July	2
	August	1
	September	1
	October	1
	November	1
	December	1
2020	January	1
	February	2
	March	0
	April	0
	May	1
	June	5
	July	1