



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 9536

I refer to your email dated 19 March 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB regarding information about patients placed in isolation within DHB hospitals to prevent the spread of disease. Specifically:

- 1. The number of patients placed in isolation in a DHB hospital in the 2018, 2019 and 2020 calendar years, broken down by year**
- 2. What condition each person had?**
- 3. What type of isolation were they in - contact, droplet, airborne, protective etc.**

Please see the tables in **Appendix 1** attached. These tables outline the various conditions patients at Te Nikau Grey Hospital were placed in isolation for and the types of isolation precaution used, year by year in the calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020 as captured; noting that the recorded data in 2018 and 2019 is incomplete* (see caveat around data below). Where more than one isolation type was used during an individual patients stay in isolation, these events are noted as cohort isolation.

*** PLEASE NOTE:** As a caveat, we note that data for 2018 and 2019 is unlikely to be complete due to variations in the way data was previously captured in the different hospital ward configurations used at Te Nikau Grey Hospital (our Base hospital for our DHB) during these periods. Data collection of isolation events at the facility was not uniformly collected in 2018 and 2019 as it has been from 2020 onwards. As such, no link can nor should be made in comparing data between the years, or assuming that there have been any dramatic spikes, dips or increases in numbers between any of the three periods. Isolation cases at Buller Health primary-care level facility have not been included.

- 4. What the longest stint in continuous isolation was during those three years, what condition it was for and what type of isolation they were in.**

The longest individual period of continuous isolation during the three years was a period of 20 days in contact isolation for complex surgical after-care for a person with comorbidities. This event was unrelated to Covid-19.

- 5. What PPE and protocols are required for each type of isolation (contact, droplet, airborne, protective, etc.)?**

West Coast DHB has protocols for each isolation type, including use of PPE in respective isolation precaution levels. West Coast DHB has developed an Isolation Flip chart to help guide staff in their decision making for the type of isolation and type of PPE required.

6. How many of last year's cases were Covid-19 related?

Two.

7. Did the emergence of Covid-19 cause changes to any of the PPE or protocols required?

As a new disease, protocols were introduced for receiving patients suspected of having Covid-19 virus. These were in line with already established protocols for cases requiring extreme protective isolation. The West Coast DHB has adopted the new isolation protocols that Canterbury DHB developed during the COVID-19 pandemic in guiding patient placement and the type of PPE required. Please refer to Canterbury DHB response CDHB 10568.

I trust 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



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

APPENDIX 1: Isolation events at Te Nikau Grey Hospital, by condition and isolation precaution type, in the calendar years 2018, 2019 and 2020.*

***PLEASE NOTE:** As indicated above, data collection of isolation events at Grey Hospital was not uniformly collected in 2018 and 2019 as it has been from 2020 onwards, with data from 2018 and 2019 as recorded below invariably being incomplete. As such, no link can nor should be made in comparing data in the tables below between years, or assuming that there have been any dramatic spikes, dips or increases in numbers between any of the three periods.

2018	PRECAUTION TYPE				
DIAGNOSIS	CONTACT	DROPLET	AIRBOURNE	PROTECTIVE / EXTREME	COHORT
Arrhythmia	5	1			2
Blood disorder				1	
Cellulitis	1				
Chest pain	2				
Circulatory disorder	6				
Coagulation disorder	1				
Collapse	1	1			
Complex surgery after-care	3				
COPD					
Diabetes related disorder	3				
Digestive disorder	4				
Heart Failure and Shock	2				
Lymphoma	1				
Miscellaneous metabolic disorders	2				1
Obstetric related care		1			
Oesophagitis / Gastroenteritis	2	1			
Pneumothorax	1				
Poisoning / Toxic Effect	2				1
Pulmonary Embolism					1
Respiratory / Bronchitis / Asthma / COAD	3	7	1		
Reticuloendothelial and Immunity Disorder	1				
Seizures		1			1
Septicemia	5	2			
Stroke	1				
Unstable angina	1				
Viral	1	1			
TOTAL	48	15	1	1	6

2019	PRECAUTION TYPE				
DIAGNOSIS	CONTACT	DROPLET	AIRBOURNE	PROTECTIVE / EXTREME	COHORT
Arrhythmia		1			2
Chest pain					1
Circulatory disorder	1				1
Coagulation disorder	1				
Collapse	1				
Coronary Artherosclerosis	1				
Digestive disorder	1				
Endocarditis		1			
Heart Failure and Shock		1	1		
Injuries /Multiple Trauma	1				
Obstetric related care	1				
Pulmonary Embolism		1			
Respiratory / Bronchitis / Asthma / COAD	1	6			1
Reticuloendothelial and Immunity Disorder	1				
Septicemia	3	1	1	3	1
TOTAL	12	11	2	3	6

2020	PRECAUTION TYPE				
DIAGNOSIS	CONTACT	DROPLET	AIRBOURNE	PROTECTIVE / EXTREME	COHORT
Abdominal Pain and Mesenteric Adentis	1				
Arrhythmia	2				
Blood disorder	2			1	
Cellulitis	1				
Circulatory disorder	2				
Complex surgery after-care	12	2		1	
Delirium		1			
Diabetes related disorder		1			
Digestive disorder	7	1			1
Ear Nose and Throat Disorder				1	
Endocrine Disorders	1				
Fever of Unknown Origin	1			1	
Heart Failure and Shock		1			
Injuries /Multiple Trauma	1	1			
Kidney and Urinary Tract Disorder	1			1	
Lymphoma				1	
Major Skin Disorder	2				
Multiple, Complex disorders	1				
Obstetric related care		1			
Oesophagitis / Gastroenteritis	13	2		1	
Osteomyelitis	2				
Other factors influencing health status / signs and symptoms	1	1			
Other Infection	2	1			
Peritoneal Adhesiolysis	1				
Poisoning / Toxic Effect		1			
Pulmonary Embolism		2			
Respiratory / Bronchitis / Asthma / COAD	1	17	3	6	
Reticuloendothelial and Immunity Disorder				1	
Septicemia	2	2		1	
Valvular Disorder					1
Viral		4	1		
TOTAL	56	38	4	15	2