



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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29 April 2021

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9540

I refer to your email dated 9 April 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

- 1. In the past 12 months, what proportion of your DHB patients that were referred to a waiting list by a surgeon, for a joint replacement, were accepted onto the list and got surgery?**
- 2. In 2017 what proportion of your DHB patients that were referred to a waiting list by a surgeon, for a joint replacement, were accepted onto the list and got surgery?**

Patients are not accepted on our surgical waiting list for major joint replacement until after they have been assessed at outpatient clinics to determine clinical threshold and course of treatment, and the patient is both accepting of the recommended treatment and is fit to undergo surgery. As such, all who patients are referred for major joint surgery are 'accepted' onto surgery lists.

In 2020, there were 87 people provided surgery locally at Grey Hospital for a major joint replacement (excluding revisions and reconstructions). West Coast DHB also funded elective major joint replacement surgeries in other hospital facilities; principally those in Canterbury DHB. In the latest available national comparison data for the twelve months to 30 September 2020, West Coast DHB funded the delivery of 136 major joint procedures. This was the highest standardised intervention rate of any DHB in the country with a rate of 28.49 procedures per 10,000 population - significantly above the national average of 21.26 cases per 10,000 population for the period.

In 2017, there were 89 people provided surgery locally at Grey Hospital for a major joint replacement (excluding revisions and reconstructions). West Coast DHB also funded elective major joint replacement surgeries in other hospital facilities in 2017; principally those in Canterbury DHB. In the twelve months to 31 December 2017, West Coast DHB funded delivery of 121 major joint procedures, or 27.65 procedures per 10,000 population. This was well above the national average standardised intervention rate of 25.47 procedures per 10,000 population for the 2017 calendar year.

3. is the DHB able to comment on whether there are enough GPs in the region?.

The model of care for the West Coast is not reliant on GP's for the provision of primary care services. Services that have been traditionally provided by GP's are provided by a wider workforce that includes

GP's, Nurse Practitioners and Rural Generalists. We are in the process of further diversifying our workforce with Rural Generalists and Nurse Practitioners this year to extend and enhance the range of primary care support available to our communities.

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