



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 9572

I refer to your email dated 24 May 2021 to the Ministry of Health which they subsequently partially transferred to us on 21 June 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically:

- 1. Colonoscopy decline data for the last five years?**
- a. If possible, it would be good to have this data presented monthly, and as up to date as possible.**
- b. This data should be presented by DHB area, with raw numbers as well as percentages, please.**
- c. ~~Could MOH also provide a definition of "decline", to ensure consistency between DHB data? For example, if a referral from a GP is declined, and, later, that person sees a specialist and is successfully accepted for a procedure, is that a decline? Also, if a full colonoscopy is suggested, but the procedure delivered is something lesser, like a flexible sigmoidoscopy or CT colonography, is that also a decline?~~** We understand the Ministry of Health has responded to this question.

Response:

Few patients are directly referred from a GP for a colonoscopy at outset. Most patients who end up on surgical waiting lists are referred from general practice for specialist review by a general surgeon at an outpatient clinic, and it is at this assessment that a general surgeon will determine if colonoscopy may be indicated for further diagnostics and treatment and place the patient on surgical waiting lists for the procedure.

Thereafter, few patients who are assessed by our general surgeons as requiring colonoscopy are subsequently declined an offer of treatment. A number of patients will be subsequently removed from the waiting list for a myriad of reasons, however – but none have been removed or “declined” due to capacity constraints or other service limitations.

Reasons for subsequent removal from a waiting list after being placed on the list for surgery include the patient no longer being medically fit for treatment; patients no longer meeting clinical criteria for treatment, or procedures no longer being required (changes to clinical circumstances); patients declining treatment at their own request; patients who do not present for their booked treatment

appointment; patients moving away to other areas and referral to other clinical services for alternative interventions and other considerations relating to individual patient circumstances.

During the last five calendar years, the raw number and percentages of new people placed on the waiting list for colonoscopy and subsequently either treated and discharged, or removed from the waiting list for reasons outlined above, were as follows:

Year	Total on Waiting List for First Colonoscopy*	Treated and Discharged		Removed for other reasons	
		Raw Number	% of Total	Raw Number	% of Total
2016	433	397	91.7%	36	8.3%
2017	467	413	88.4%	54	11.6%
2018	595	554	93.1%	41	6.9%
2019	489	459	93.9%	30	6.1%
2020	541	495	91.5%	46	8.5%
2021**	266	252	94.7%	14	5.3%

*Excludes people booked on routine colonoscopy surveillance lists.

** Six month to 30 June 2021.

Details of the reason for removal of those placed on surgical waiting lists for colonoscopy month by month over the period from 2016 are listed in **Appendix 1**.

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



Tracey Maisey
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support

Colonoscopy Waiting List Data

For WL removed in the period: 01/01/2016 to 30/06/2021

Endoscopy

2016

	Does not meet criteria	Medically Unfit for Treatment	Other	Patient Declined Treatment	Proc not required	Returned to GP	Treated & Discharged	Total
January 2016	0	1	0	2	0	0	34	37
February 2016	0	0	0	0	1	0	40	41
March 2016	0	0	1	0	1	0	23	25
April 2016	0	0	1	0	0	0	26	27
May 2016	0	0	2	1	1	0	32	36
June 2016	0	0	2	0	0	0	28	30
July 2016	0	1	1	0	1	1	27	31
August 2016	0	1	3	1	0	0	43	48
September 2016	0	1	1	1	0	0	38	41
October 2016	1	0	2	1	1	0	34	39
November 2016	0	1	1	0	1	0	41	44
December 2016	0	0	2	1	0	0	31	34
Total	1	5	16	7	6	1	397	433

Colonoscopy Waiting List Data

For WL removed in the period: 01/01/2016 to 30/06/2021

2017

	Does not meet criteria	Medically Unfit for Treatment	Other	Patient Declined Treatment	Patient Died	Patient DNA'd Appointment	Proc not required	Treated & Discharged	Total
January 2017	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	27	29
February 2017	1	0	1	3	0	1	1	35	42
March 2017	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	49	53
April 2017	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	40	44
May 2017	0	0	0	4	1	1	2	37	45
June 2017	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	31	33
July 2017	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	30	32
August 2017	0	2	3	1	0	0	0	37	43
September 2017	0	6	0	0	0	0	0	31	37
October 2017	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	41	45
November 2017	0	0	3	1	0	0	0	35	39
December 2017	0	1	3	0	0	0	1	20	25
Total	1	12	16	14	1	3	7	413	467

Colonoscopy Waiting List Data

For WL removed in the period: 01/01/2016 to 30/06/2021

2018

	Medically Unfit for Treatment	Other	Patient Declined Treatment	Patient DNA'd Appointment	Patient Moved	Patient not Contactable	Proc not required	Referred To Another Service	Returned to GP	Treated & Discharged	Total
January 2018	1	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	1	30	36
February 2018	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	37	39
March 2018	1	1	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	48	53
April 2018	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	38	41
May 2018	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	55	58
June 2018	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	50	53
July 2018	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	56	59
August 2018	0	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	58	62
September 2018	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	60	63
October 2018	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	38	42
November 2018	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	46	47
December 2018	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	38	42
Total	3	14	6	4	2	1	8	1	2	554	595

Colonoscopy Waiting List Data

For WL removed in the period: 01/01/2016 to 30/06/2021

2019

	Other	Patient Declined Treatment	Patient Died	Patient DNA'd Appointment	Patient not Contactable	Proc not required	Returned to GP	Treated & Discharged	Unable to contact	Total
January 2019	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	33	1	37
February 2019	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	40	0	44
March 2019	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	28	0	29
April 2019	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	32	0	33
May 2019	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	40	0	41
June 2019	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	28	0	30
July 2019	1	1	0	1	0	0	1	38	0	42
August 2019	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	45	0	47
September 2019	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	48	0	49
October 2019	0	1	0	0	0	3	0	49	0	53
November 2019	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	41	0	45
December 2019	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	37	0	39
Total	6	6	1	1	1	11	3	459	1	489

Colonoscopy Waiting List Data

For WL removed in the period: 01/01/2016 to 30/06/2021

2020

	Medically Unfit for Treatment	Other	Patient Declined Treatment	Patient DNA'd Appointment	Patient Moved	Proc not required	Returned to GP	Treated & Discharged	Total
January 2020	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	44	47
February 2020	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	35	37
March 2020	0	0	2	1	0	0	0	35	38
April 2020	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	11	13
May 2020	2	0	2	1	0	2	0	43	50
June 2020	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	58	61
July 2020	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	29	31
August 2020	0	1	0	0	0	1	5	55	62
September 2020	0	0	4	0	0	0	5	48	57
October 2020	1	3	1	0	0	0	0	49	54
November 2020	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	48	48
December 2020	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	40	43
Total	3	5	11	2	1	14	10	495	541

Colonoscopy Waiting List Data

For WL removed in the period: 01/01/2016 to 30/06/2021

2021

	Other	Patient Declined Treatment	Patient DNA'd Appointment	Proc not required	Treated & Discharged	Total
January 2021	2	2	0	1	40	45
February 2021	1	1	1	0	47	50
March 2021	0	1	0	0	38	39
April 2021	0	0	0	0	38	38
May 2021	0	3	0	1	44	48
June 2021	0	1	0	0	45	46
Total	3	8	1	2	252	266

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT