



West Coast District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora a Rohe o Tai Poutini

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11 October 2021

9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request WCDHB 9608

I refer to your email dated 12 August 2021 to the Ministry of Health which they subsequently partially transferred to us on 21 September 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from West Coast DHB. Specifically: Questions 2, 3a, 3c, 3d, 3f and 3g.

2. Of the total amount of strokes in NZ in 2019, 2020 and 2021:

a. How many of the victims were:

- i. Overweight**
- ii. Diabetic**
- iii. High blood pressure / hypertension**
- iv. Atrial Fibrillation**
- v. High Cholesterol**
- vi. Smokers**
- vii. Identified as drinking alcohol regularly**
- viii. Where clinically depressed, or identified high stress levels**
- ix. Where medical misadventure strokes?**

This information is not held in an easily retrievable electronic system and to provide the information requested above would entail us going manually through individual patient files and case notes to see what was recorded. We are therefore declining a response to these questions pursuant to section 18(f) of the Official Information Act i.e. *"...the information cannot be made available without substantial collation or research"*.

3. Of the total amount of strokes and in NZ in 2019, 2020 and 2021:

a. How many received thrombolysis treatment?

There were 179 admissions with a primary diagnosis of stroke as their reason for admission between 1 January 2019 and 30 September 2021. Of these, 19 received thrombolysis treatment.

Please refer to **Table one** (overleaf) for a breakdown by calendar year.

Table one:

Calendar Year	Primary Stroke Admissions	Thrombolysed
2019	56	3
2020	59	5
2021	64	11

b. ~~How many were discharged within two weeks?~~

This question is being responded to by the Ministry of Health.

c. How many were referred to either the Stroke Foundation of New Zealand or Stroke Central New Zealand?

i. By region for Central Region

Please refer to **Table Two** (below) for the number of stroke patients who consented to have their information shared to be referred to the Stroke Foundation for further contact

Table Two

Referrals By Calendar Year	Jan-Dec 2019	Jan-Dec 2020	Jan-Sep 2021
Number referred to Stroke Foundation	31	31	25

d. How many received some kind of rehabilitation treatment?

For West Coast DHB, stroke rehabilitation services are delivered either on an inpatient basis at Te Nikau Grey Hospital in Greymouth or in varying degrees for ongoing post-discharge community rehabilitation and follow-up after discharge from hospital to their home or usual place of residence.

Stroke patients discharged from Grey Hospital commonly have face to face multi-disciplinary team (MDT) assessment undertaken by allied health staff (physiotherapy, occupational therapy, social work and/or speech language therapy) and the Stroke Nurse Specialist on the day of leaving Te Nikau Grey Hospital, prior to discharge from both the acute and rehabilitation service.

West Coast DHB will often look to complete rehabilitation within the inpatient ward rehabilitation environment until cleared by the MDT to be discharged home; particularly where they live remotely and/or at distance from our core stroke service in Greymouth.

In the community setting, patients either come into allied health service outpatient clinics (physiotherapy, speech language therapy, occupational therapy, and social work) or are visited in their own home as able or necessary. Patients generally receive follow up from our Stroke Clinical Nurse Specialist in the community within 1-2 weeks wherever possible.

Please refer to **Table Three** (below) for the number of people referred for rehabilitation treatment and follow up, either in hospital or in the community.

Table Three

Rehabilitation by Calendar Year	Jan-Dec 2019	Jan-Dec 2020	Jan-Sep 2021
Inpatient and community stroke therapy service rehabilitation treatment and follow-up.	47	43	41

e. ~~How many resulted in death from the stroke?~~

This question is being responded to by the Ministry of Health.

f. How many were secondary strokes?

In addition to the 179 primary stroke cases listed above, please refer to **Table Four** (below) for the number of patients who had secondary stroke events recorded as episodes concurrent to their primary reason for admission to our DHB's secondary care level hospital in Greymouth:

Table Four

Secondary Stroke Cases by Calendar year	Jan-Dec 2019	Jan-Dec 2020	Jan-Sep 2021
Stroke recorded as secondary diagnosis to primary reason for admission, not during same stay *	34	25	17

Note: *Excludes secondary admission for inpatient assessment treatment and rehabilitation following acute admission for primary diagnosis of stroke.

g. How many resulted in disability?

We are declining a response to this question pursuant to section 18(g) of the Official Information Act i.e. "...the information requested is not held by the West Coast DHB".

I trust that 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



Tracey Maisey
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support