

29 September 2022

By email [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: OIA 20220826-1290
Hospital wait times and ED delays

Thank you for your email of 26 August, asking for the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- I understand Auckland monitors wait times from decision to treat to treatment, instead of FSA to treatment. Therefore, can you please can you please tweak Q3,4,7,8,11,12,15,16,19,20,23 &24 accordingly so these questions can be answered?
- Also, in regards Q26 is there another way ED wait times are monitored? If so, please tweak accordingly.

Please note: All 2022 figures line up with the timing of the data we provided to you for the previous responses.

The wait time for surgery is from when the decision was made that the patient needed surgery to the date of the surgery; this represents the time on a waitlist for surgery.

In the data provided, the cases listed as longest waits could be outliers. For context, there are a range of factors that impact the wait times for surgery.

Patients are prioritised based on clinical urgency which means that patients who are waitlisted with a lower priority level might wait longer for their surgery compared to patients who are more clinically urgent.

In addition, the wait time could be impacted by patients choosing to delay their surgery until a later date, being out of the area or country temporarily, and if patients on the treatment pathway have or develop other conditions, these may need to be managed prior to their surgery, resulting in a delay in some instances.

Q3. The average wait time for cancer surgery after a patient's decision to treat for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.

The data for Q3 and Q4 is based on Faster Cancer Treatment (FCT) data. The time reported is from decision to treat, where the first treatment is surgery, and the surgery

date. The business rules for FCT are Faster Cancer Treatment Indicators: Business Rules and Data Definitions, published by the Ministry of Health March 2014.

Year	Average wait for surgery (days)
2018	24
2019	23
2020	22
2021	21
2022	24

Q4. The longest and shortest wait time for cancer surgery after a decision to treat for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.

Year of surgery	Min days waiting	Max days waiting
2018	0	871
2019	0	237
2020	0	232
2021	0	231
2022	0	297

Q7. The average wait time for heart surgery after a decision to treat for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.

The following two tables for Q7 and Q8 include surgeries completed under Cardiology and/or Paediatric Cardiology.

Year of surgery	Avg days waiting
2018	25
2019	28
2020	37
2021	36
2022	20

Q8. The longest and shortest wait time for heart surgery after a decision to treat for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date

Year of surgery	Min days waiting	Max days waiting
2018	0	513
2019	0	380
2020	0	553
2021	0	470
2022	0	521

Q11. The average wait time for orthopaedic surgery after a decision to treat for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.

The following two tables for Q11 and Q12 include surgeries completed under Orthopaedic and/or Paediatric Orthopaedic.

Year of surgery	Avg days waiting
2018	103
2019	112
2020	119
2021	110
2022	123

Q12. The longest and shortest wait time for orthopaedic surgery after a decision to treat for the last five years between 2018 to this year, to date.

Year of surgery	Min days waiting	Max days waiting
2018	0	1031
2019	0	1503
2020	0	1003
2021	0	712
2022	0	544

Q15. The average wait time for gynaecological surgery after a patient's decision to treat for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.

The following two tables for Q15 and Q16 include surgeries completed under Gynaecology.

Year of surgery	Avg days waiting
2018	55
2019	71
2020	74
2021	73
2022	97

Q16.The longest and shortest wait time for gynaecological surgery after a decision to treat for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.

Year of surgery	Min days waiting	Max days waiting
2018	0	168
2019	0	339
2020	0	359
2021	0	466
2022	0	625

Q19.The average wait time for urology surgery after a decision to treat for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.

The following two tables for Q19 and Q20 include surgeries completed under Urology.

Year of surgery	Avg days waiting
2018	66
2019	69
2020	79
2021	107
2022	107

Q20.The longest and shortest wait time for urology surgery after a decision to treat for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.

Year of surgery	Min days waiting	Max days waiting
2018	0	434
2019	0	460
2020	0	503
2021	0	529
2022	1	517

Q23.The average wait time for respiratory surgery after a decision to treat for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.

The following two tables for Q23 and Q24 include Cardiothoracic and Paediatric Respiratory surgeries.

Year of surgery	Avg days waiting
2018	24
2019	38
2020	46
2021	42
2022	44

Q24. The longest and shortest wait time for a respiratory surgery after a decision to treat, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.

Year of FSA	Min days waiting	Max days waiting
2018	0	301
2019	0	560
2020	0	650
2021	0	672
2022	1	288

Q26. The longest and shortest wait time for a patient visiting the emergency department for the last five years from 2018 to this year to date.

As previously advised, it is not possible to provide this information as it would require manually reviewing the notes of all patients going through the emergency department at Te Toka Tumai Auckland District, which is not feasible. Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files over the course of five years and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to refuse this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation and research.

We do however monitor compliance with the 6 hour target where we monitor when patients are admitted, discharged or transferred from an Emergency Department within six hours. The following table provides an average compliance against this measure.

Year	% meeting the 6 hr target
2018	90%
2019	88%
2020	90%
2021	84%
2022 YTD	80%

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at ويا@adhb.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

Nāku iti noa, nā



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