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Tena koe Alexa

Official Information Act Request - OIA 13524 Joint Replacement Referrals

On 31 May 2021, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

****Please apply these questions below to the calendar year of 2020 AND 2017:**

1. How many people were **referred by the GP** to the DHB for a joint replacement that year?
 - Of those, how many **did not** receive a first specialist appointment with a specialist orthopaedic surgeon?
 - Of those who had their first appointment with the specialist orthopaedic surgeon, how many were then **referred/sent back** to their GP?
 - Of those patients that were referred by GP for joint replacement surgery, how many **went ahead** to have surgery by the DHB?
 - Of those who were referred by GP **and** had a first specialist appointment with an orthopaedic surgeon, how many actually **had their surgery** with the DHB?
2. How many patients were deemed clinically necessary to go on a **waiting list** for joint replacement that year?
3. How many referrals from the GP and specialist for joint replacements were **turned down** that year?
4. How many were turned down because of '**lack of capacity**'?
5. Can you specify your DHBs **criteria** for joint surgery?
6. How many **points** do patients need to get onto the waiting list for joint replacement in your DHB?
7. How many 'semi urgent' referrals from the GP to DHB for ENT (ears, nose throat) were actually seen by a specialist?

Whanganui District Health Boards response:

Note: These questions have been interpreted and answered to the best of our ability using the data available. We have only provided information for the years 2018,2019 and 2020, as prior to February 2018 information suitable to answer these questions was not available. This data relates to **hip** and **knee** joint replacement referrals only.

Chief Executive I Phone 06 348 3140

1. How many people were referred by the GP to the DHB for a joint replacement that year?

	2018	2019	2020
Total	586	587	602

NB: Our Patient Management System (PAS) does not record whether an outpatient referral is specifically for a joint replacement. A list of recorded 'reasons for referral' that may be for a joint replacement have been selected. As not all referrals may lead to or require patient having joint replacement surgery this may lead to an over-estimation of 'referrals for a joint replacement'.

a. Of those, how many did not receive a first specialist appointment with a specialist orthopaedic surgeon?

	2018	2019	2020
Total	283	359	338

NB; those referrals rejected/declined or closed before an first appointment attended.

b. Of those who had their first appointment with the specialist orthopaedic surgeon, how many were then referred/sent back to their GP?

	2018	2019	2020
Total	85	46	13

c. Of those patients that were referred by GP for joint replacement surgery, how many went ahead to have surgery by the DHB?

	2018	2019	2020
Total	124	115	173

NB; those referred to the procedure waiting list

d. Of those who were referred by GP and had a first specialist appointment with an orthopaedic surgeon, how many actually had their surgery with the DHB?

	2018	2019	2020
Total	89	85	82

Patients can be waitlisted for surgery from an FSA appointment as well as a follow up appointment.

2. How many patients were deemed clinically necessary to go on a waiting list for joint replacement that year?

	2018	2019	2020
Total	133	139	195

NB: those referred to the procedure waiting list following an appointment. The referred procedure may not be a joint replacement.

3. How many referrals from the GP and specialist for joint replacements were turned down that year?

	2018	2019	2020
Total	158	275	238

NB; those referrals rejected/declined or closed before a first appointment attended.

4. How many were turned down because of 'lack of capacity'?

	2018	2019	2020
Total	5	7	2

NB: information provided using reason "Resource constraints". The majority of declined referrals for joint surgery results from the DHB criteria not being met.

5. Can you specify your DHBs criteria for joint surgery?

- a. Referral generated by referrer/GP; patient referred to 'Fit for surgery programme" if necessary - this is initiated by the GP if required.
- b. Referral received by the DHB.
- c. Physio assessment undertaken utilising the Oxford scoring tool.
- d. Referral triaged in conjunction with physio scoring results.
- e. At triage, some patients are accepted for a first specialist appointment (FSA) and some are declined at this point resulting from not meeting criteria as above.
- f. FSA appointment undertaken, and patient assessed by Orthopaedic surgeon. At this appointment the patient is also scored on the online prioritisation scoring system code (CPAC). If the patient does not meet the DHB acceptance threshold, the patient is not wait listed for surgery.
- g. Patients accepted for surgery need to attend the enhanced recovery after surgery (ERAS) programme as well as pass a pre anaesthetic assessment before being booked for surgery.

6. How many points do patients need to get onto the waiting list for joint replacement in your DHB?

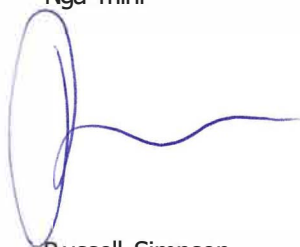
58 is Whanganui DHBs current CPAC Score, as from 21/10/2019

7. How many 'semi urgent' referrals from the GP to DHB for ENT {ears, nose throat} were actually seen by a specialist?

	2018	2019	2020
Total	739	698	519

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Nga mihi



Russell Simpson
Chief Executive