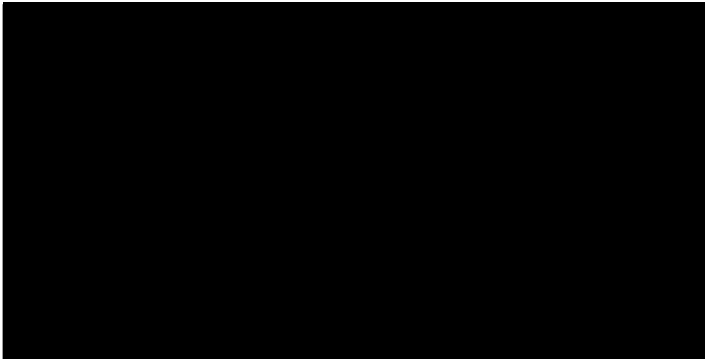


31 October 2019



**Re Official Information Request – Prostate Cancer Treatment**

I refer to your official information request dated 10 October 2019 requesting the following information:

I am requesting the following information under the Official Information Act:

Please only include those patients who undergo prostatectomy surgery who have a confirmed prostate cancer diagnosis, not those who require the surgery for other conditions.

**1. The current waiting time for an appointment following a referral from a GP for a prostate cancer initial consultation**

These patients are categorised as a B-RefLog (Priority 2). The data was obtained from PHS of appointments that had a waitlist priority of B-Reflog within the Urology service and therefore is not specific to just prostate cancer appointments.

Current:

Average waiting time for B-RefLog from referral to outpatient appointment = 30 days

Median waiting time for B-RefLog from referral to outpatient appointment = 28 days

Comparison with 2017:

Average waiting time for B-RefLog from referral to outpatient appointment = 31 days

Median waiting time for B-RefLog from referral to outpatient appointment = 28 days

**2. The current waiting time for a follow-up appointment for a prostate biopsy**

In most cases the prostate biopsy appointment is the First Specialist Appointment i.e. patients are scheduled for a biopsy from referral so there is no wait time.

**3. The current waiting time for a post-biopsy appointment to discuss results and treatment options**

Current:

Average waiting time between Biopsy and FU Appointment = 21 days

Median waiting time between Biopsy and FU Appointment = 20 days

Comparison with 2017:

Average waiting time between Biopsy and FU Appointment = 18 days

Median waiting time between Biopsy and FU Appointment = 18 days

*\* This is the waiting time for patients who have had radical prostatectomies*

**4. The current waiting time for a radical prostatectomy following the post-biopsy appointment for persons with a confirmed prostate cancer diagnosis.**

Current:

Average waiting time From Post Biopsy FU to Surgery Date = 121 days\*

Median waiting time From Post Biopsy FU to Surgery Date = 103.5 days

Comparison with 2017:

Average waiting time From Post Biopsy FU to Surgery Date = 104 days\*

Median waiting time From Post Biopsy FU to Surgery Date = 82 days

Information supplied for all responses is for Auckland DHB patients only. The current waiting times includes events for the period of June 2018 to June 2019. The 2017 waiting times includes events for the period of June 2017 to June 2018.

*\*Please note that this is not the decision to treat date and data includes patients that requested delay in treatment and patients requiring further diagnostic tests prior to a treatment decision being made.*

I trust this information answers your questions.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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 Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive

