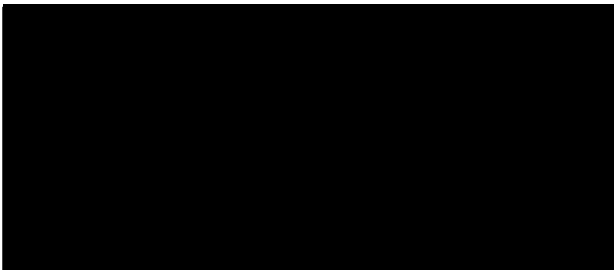


05 June 2019



Re **Official Information Request for policy for treatment of obese patients**

I refer to your official information request of 7 May 2019 for the following information:

1. *Could you please advise the policy of the ADHB-National Women's for treatment of obese patients.*
2. *Under what grounds surgery will be denied in relation to obesity.*
3. *Whether urgency of treatment is considered, ie cancer.*

The information you have requested is enclosed below:

1. *Could you please advise the policy of the ADHB-National Women's for treatment of obese patients.*

Within Women's Health there is no policy document that uses Body Mass Index/patient weight as criteria for offering or declining surgery.

2. *Under what grounds surgery will be denied in relation to obesity.*

When counselling women who are considering surgery, the risks and benefits of the surgery are discussed. Some of these risks and some of the surgical outcomes, for example the success of vaginal prolapse repair, may be modified by Body Mass Index/ weight.

3. *Whether urgency of treatment is considered, ie cancer*

In the case of malignancy, women of all Body Mass Indexes are operated on if they are medically fit to undergo anaesthesia.

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