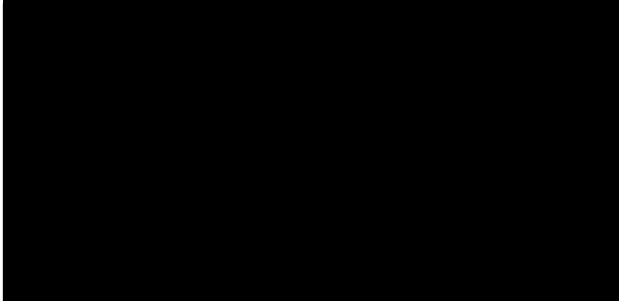


1 September 2020



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Re Official Information Request – Cerebral palsy and pain management

I refer to your official information request dated 22 July 2020 to the MoH and transferred from the MoH to Auckland DHB on 18 August 2020 requesting the following information:

I am currently doing some research into Cerebral Palsy and Pain Management. I live with Cerebral Palsy and pain. I was wondering if the Ministry of Health could answer me the following questions.

1. What pain management services are available to children with Cerebral Palsy?

Primary care would manage some pain of children with Cerebral Palsy in the community. In a secondary or tertiary setting, paediatric services, which includes general paediatrics, developmental paediatrics, paediatric neurology and orthopaedics and paediatric rehabilitation, all have a role in managing pain in children with cerebral palsy.

The Acute Pain Service at Starship manages post-operative and acute pain for children with cerebral palsy. Furthermore, the Complex Pain Service at Starship provides an outpatient service to assess chronic pain in children with cerebral palsy when referred by their paediatrician. Medical assessment and recommendations on management for children with Cerebral Palsy who are inpatients and have complex pain, regardless of DHB of domicile, is also provided by the Complex Pain Service.

2. What pain management services are available to adults with Cerebral Palsy?

Adults with Cerebral Palsy, within the Auckland DHB catchment area, can access the Auckland Regional Pain Service by referral from a GP or specialist. Primary care would also manage patients and their pain requirements.

3. How are these services accessed?

GP services are accessed directly by the patient. However, paediatric services are accessed via a referral from a GP or another primary care provider. A pain service referral would come from another paediatrician or orthopaedic specialist.

Referrals from a GP or a specialist can be received into the Auckland Regional Pain Service. The Auckland Regional Pain Service can also receive referrals from outside the Auckland District Health Board area which would go through the usual intra district flow criteria. If referrals are being received from outside Auckland DHB, a referral will still be required from the local DHB pain service in the first instance.

4. Are these services available to all New Zealanders or only in some parts of the country?

Auckland DHB is unable to answer this on behalf of all of New Zealand.

The paediatric services for Cerebral Palsy and pain management are for Auckland DHB. However, the paediatric pain service is funded to provide services for Northern Region when a patient is referred to it or to any patient admitted to Starship Hospital from around New Zealand.

In relation to adults, Auckland DHB provides a regional pain service which can be accessed by a referral from a GP or a Specialist. If referrals are being received from outside Auckland DHB, a referral will still be required from the local DHB pain service in the first instance.

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 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