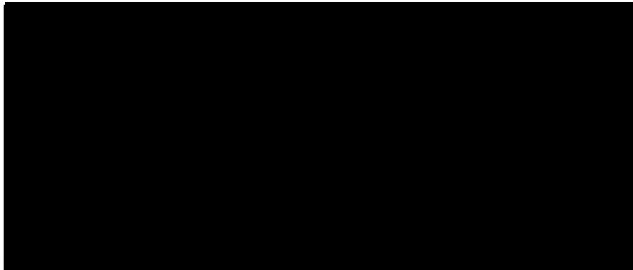


25 March 2021



Re: Official Information Act request – the rise in the use of nitrous oxide

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 16 March 2021, requesting the following information:

Can you please provide the following information available under the Official Information Act:

- 1. The number of people per month over the last 2 years who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.**

Four patients have been seen in our emergency department in the past two years in relation to the use of nitrous oxide (3 patients in 2019 and one patient in 2020). Due to the risk of the patients being identifiable, we are unable to provide you with a further breakdown by month to protect their privacy (section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act).

- 2. The number of people per month over the last 2 years who have been admitted to hospital as a result of the use of nitrous oxide.**

None were admitted into hospital.

- 3. The age of people per month over the last 2 years who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.**

These four patients fell into the age band of 15-25 years. Due to the risk of the patients being identifiable, we are unable to provide you with a further breakdown of their age to protect their privacy (section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act).

- 4. The gender of the people per month over the last 2 years who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.**

There were 3 females and one male.

5. The ethnicity of people per month over the last 2 years who have been seen in your emergency department in relation to the use of nitrous oxide.

Three patients were of New Zealand European ethnicity and one was of Maori ethnicity.

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 of Te Toka Tumai (Auckland District Health Board)