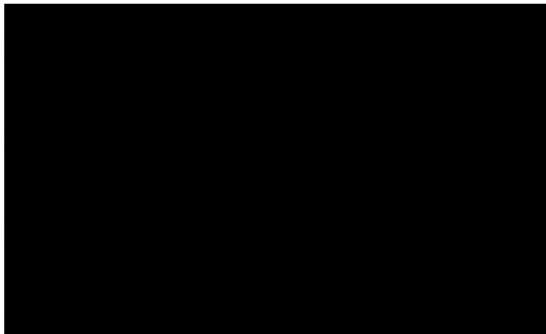


27 July 2021



Re: Official Information Act request – Access to services for people with Multiple Sclerosis

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 30 June 2021 requesting the following information:

Multiple Sclerosis New Zealand contacted you last year regarding the services experienced in your DHB by people with Multiple Sclerosis, with a particular focus on Neurology services. We are contacting you once again to understand the access to services and how this may have changed. We are trying to understand the situation across the country and would be grateful if you would arrange for the following information in respect to your DHB.

Please note that we have accepted transfer of this OIA from both Counties Manukau Health and Waitematā DHB, as Auckland District Health Board is the provider of this service for both Counties Manukau Health and Waitematā DHB's population.

Staffing Numbers

1. How many Neurologists do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

We have 20 neurologists, 13.8 FTE.

2. How many Neurologists are Multiple Sclerosis Specialists on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

One, 0.4 FTE. We have two additional neurologists assisting in our specialist MS clinic.

3. How many Neurologists on your staff see patients with Multiple Sclerosis?

All neurologists see patients with multiple sclerosis.

4. How many Neurology Nurses do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

We have 54 neurology nurses, approximately 50.6 FTE, and two nurses (1.4 FTE) for Ward 51/Daystay

5. How many MS Nurse Specialists are on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

We have 2 MS nurse specialists -1.0 FTE

Waiting Times

We request the information to relate to the period from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021

6. What is the current waiting time for a/an:

a. First specialist neurology outpatients' appointment?

Semi-urgent 58 days
Routine 96 days

b. Follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment?

Wait lists are managed by a professional assessment of need rather than general categories. We have open lines of communication with referring doctors and can change the waiting time for particular patients if there is a change in their condition.

c. Outpatient MRI?

Wait lists are managed by a professional assessment of need rather than general categories. We have open lines of communication with referring doctors and can change the waiting time for particular patients if there is a change in their condition.

d. Outpatient infusion clinic appointment?

1-2 weeks to initiate.

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)