

12 October 2021

**Re: Official Information Act request – Diabetes Research**

I refer to your Official Information Act request 15 September 2021 requesting the following information:

I am conducting research under Dr Ibrahim Al-Busaidi into the provision of diabetic foot services available in New Zealand. To assist us in ascertaining the distribution of treatment available within each DHB, it would be greatly helpful to us if you would be able to answer the following questions about the following treatments available for diabetic foot that is available within your DHB.

We are curious about whether the following services, and if they are available, the number of such services that are available in your DHB:

1. **Community podiatry services for diabetic foot**
  - a. Whether this is funded or unfunded
  - b. If funded the number of sessions that are funded per year and who qualifies
2. **High risk foot clinics**
  - a. If available, the number of podiatrists who are available and the FTEs
3. **Specialist MDT clinics**
  - a. If these do occur, how frequently they occur
4. **Charcot foot clinics**
5. **Surgical care services for diabetic foot**
  - a. Following surgical care, where physical rehabilitation occurs
6. **Hyperbaric oxygen therapy**

#### Response

1. **Community podiatry services for diabetic foot**

Yes, this service is provided at Auckland DHB
2. **Whether this is funded or unfunded**

This service is funded is funded for those who are eligible for publicly funded health services in New Zealand. Note further information here [MoH eligibility guide](#).
3. **If funded the number of sessions that are funded per year and who qualifies**

Our package of care for people who are screened and found to be at moderate risk, high risk or in-remission is as per the 2017 NZSSD recommended pathways. An Annual package of care is up to three appointments, but more can be requested based on clinical need.

There is also a funded in-remission service for in-remission and high risk feet, such as those with End Stage Renal Failure, who require intensive management or have just been de-escalated from the high risk foot clinic with active foot problems.

- 4. High risk foot clinics and if available, the number of podiatrists who are available and the FTEs**  
Yes. Auckland we have 5 podiatrists that make up 3 FTE. There is a FTE funded for high risk feet. So we have a total of 4 FTE.
- 5. Specialist MDT clinics and If these do occur, how frequently they occur**  
Yes, specific clinics once weekly for all new patients and a combined vascular MDT fortnightly- however all clinics have the MDT available for urgent review and case management.
- 6. Charcot foot clinics**  
No specific Charcot clinics are provided, but Charcot cases are co-managed with the orthopaedic service with case discussions as required
- 7. Surgical care services for diabetic foot**  
Yes we provide surgical services following surgical care where physical rehabilitation is delivered. This follows the usual DHB post-operative rehab and community rehabilitation team referral pathways.
- 8. Hyperbaric oxygen therapy**  
No, we do not provide this therapy.

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.govt.nz](http://www.ombudsman.govt.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 sincerely,



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Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive