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Re: Official Information Request for COVID-19 Therapeutics Dispensing

I refer to your official information request dated 29 April 2022 and part transferred from Counties and Waitemata DHBs seeking the following information:

Can the DHB please advise how many courses of the following Covid-19 treatments have been dispensed to both inpatients and outpatients between January 1 and April 28:

**Baricitinib (Olumiant)
Casirivimab with imdevimab (Ronapreve)
Nirmatrelvir and Ritonavir (Paxlovid)
Remdesivir (Veklury)
Tocilizumab (Actemra)**

Response

Please note that:

1. Auckland DHB Pharmacy do not have data on community dispensing for outpatients treated in the community.
2. The year is not specified in the request but we have assumed 2022.
3. Within a DHB, medications are not always dispensed as a single course so multiple dispensing may be required to complete a course. Our report assumes each unique National Health Identifier is one course of treatment.
4. Some treatments are dispensed from the hospital dispensary to individual patients while others are held as ward stock, which is known as Imprest. Most inpatient locations in Auckland DHB's clinical services in the hospitals use paper medication charts and this means there is no way we can electronically report on the number of patients/courses who have received Imprest dispensing from stock that is kept on wards. This is noted in the response where applicable.
5. Some treatments have multiple indications for use, some of which are not related to a COVID-19 treatment. Most inpatient locations at Auckland DHB use paper medication charts, therefore there is no way we can electronically report on indications within available resource. This is noted in the response where applicable.

Treatment	Courses of treatment dispensed
Baricitinib (Olumiant)	Inpatient – 46 Outpatient – no data available
Casirivimab with imdevimab (Ronapreve)	Inpatient – 0 Outpatient – no data available
Nirmatrelvir and Ritonavir (Paxlovid)	Inpatient – 0 Outpatient – no data available
Remdesivir (Veklury)	Inpatient/Outpatient – Kept as ward stock used for both inpatients and outpatient so accurate number unknown. 715 units sent from pharmacy via dispensing and ward stock, estimated number of courses up to ~180
Tocilizumab (Actemra)	Inpatient – Multiple indications. When excluding patients under rheumatology service, 34. Outpatient – no data available

In addition to the above we have data showing that 57 outpatients were infused with a total of 171 courses of Remdesivir. This total is included in the figure of up to 180 courses provided above. This service was provided to patients domiciled in the three Auckland metropolitan DHBs.

I trust this information answers your questions.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. 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 sincerely



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive