

30 November 2022

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Your Official Information Act request, reference: HNZ00005652

Thank you for your email of 18 October, clarified 25 October, asking for the following which has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. **What was the Medical Day-Stay (non-oncology) infusion capacity for the population your hospital services where capacity is defined as the maximum number of infusions that can occur at any given time?**
2. **Average number of non-oncology infusions per week?**
3. **Total (non-oncology) infusions between 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022**
4. **Opening days & hours?**
5. **Which medicines are most commonly infused (top ten)?**
6. **Which departments are the 3 biggest users of the non-oncology infusion service? i.e. gastroenterology, rheumatology and respiratory**
7. **Are infusion bookings ever delayed due to capacity constraints?**
 - **If so:**
 - a. **How many days (on average) from the date an infusion is required to the date it is booked for?**
 - b. **What is the longest period (in days) that an infusion has been delayed for in the past year?**
 - c. **Over the past 12 months, how many patients have had an infusion delayed due to capacity constraints?**
8. **What is the forecasted increase in non-oncology infusion numbers over the next two years?**
9. **Is the DHB planning to expand infusion capacity?**

If so:

 - a. **By how much?**
 - a. **What is the timeframe for completion?**
 - b. **Will capacity meet demand?"**

Response

1. **What was the Medical Day-Stay (non-oncology) infusion capacity for the population your hospital services where capacity is defined as the maximum number of infusions that can occur at any given time?**

There is no defined infusion capacity across non-oncology infusions. Infusions are delivered in available inpatient, outpatient clinic and procedure room capacity as required

2. Average number of non-oncology infusions per week?

104 (being 5,382 / 52 = 104 per week)

3. Total (non-oncology) infusions between 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

5,382

4. Opening days & hours?

Outpatient infusions are delivered Monday to Friday, 8am to 4pm (8 hours)

5. Which medicines are most commonly infused (top ten)?

Infusion Type	Count
Count	5382
Intravenous administration of pharmacological agent, other and unspecified pharmacological agent	2536
Administration of gamma globulin	1515
Intravenous administration of pharmacological agent, anti-infective agent	141
Management of noninvasive ventilatory support, <= 24 hours	120
Subcutaneous administration of pharmacological agent, other and unspecified pharmacological agent	105
Management of noninvasive ventilatory support, >= 96 hours	85
Enteral administration of pharmacological agent, nutritional substance	81
Other phototherapy, skin	72
Management of noninvasive ventilatory support, > 24 and < 96 hours	64
Intravenous administration of pharmacological agent, steroid	62

6. Which departments are the 3 biggest users of the non-oncology infusion service? i.e. gastroenterology, rheumatology and respiratory

We have interpreted the time period you are seeking information on as the financial year 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022.

Service	Event Count
Immunology	878
Gastroenterology	746
Neurology	679

7. Are infusion bookings ever delayed due to capacity constraints?

Yes, but note infusions are delivered in available outpatient clinic and procedure rooms as required so time delays are minimal

- **If so:**
 - a. **How many days (on average) from the date an infusion is required to the date it is booked for?**
 - b. **What is the longest period (in days) that an infusion has been delayed for in the past year?**
 - c. **Over the past 12 months, how many patients have had an infusion delayed due to capacity constraints?**

We are refusing this part of your request citing s18(e) Official Information Act – the information requested does not exist.

8. What is the forecasted increase in non-oncology infusion numbers over the next two years?

We are refusing this part of your request citing s18(e) Official Information Act – the information requested does not exist.

Note that we will respond to:

- changes in population
- change in treatment modalities
- changes in treatments that become available as part of Pharmac's schedule

9. Is the DHB planning to expand infusion capacity?

If so:

- a. **By how much?**
- c. **What is the timeframe for completion?**
- d. **Will capacity meet demand?"**

We have no confirmed formal plans in place to do this as of the date of this response. Note, as above, we will continue to develop our capacity to meet population growth.

How to get in contact

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ has decided to proactively release a copy of this response on Health NZ's website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available here.

Nāku iti noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dr Michael Shepherd
Interim District Director
Te Toka Tumai Auckland

[TeWhatuOra.govt.nz](https://www.tewhatuora.govt.nz)

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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government