



20 October 2021

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**Official Information Act Request**

On 21 September 2021 you requested information about endometriosis. Your request was amended on 23 September 2021.

1. *Of all the patients with pelvic pain seen by a specialist in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time for that appointment?*

The average wait time was four months.

2. *Of all the patients with pelvic pain seen by a specialist in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time for that appointment?*

The shortest timeframe was less than one month and the longest was 11 months.

3. *In the last 12 months how many patients have seen a specialist at the DHB for pelvic pain?*

90 patients.

4. *In the last 12 months, how many patients have been transferred to another hospital to treat possible endometriosis?*

Northland DHB does not capture this information outside individual medical files. In order to collate the data requested we would need to manually review all the relevant medical files; a very time consuming task that would necessarily take staff away from their primary function. I have therefore decided to decline your request in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act as making the information available would require substantial collation and research. You have a right to complain to the Ombudsman about my decision.

5. *How many specialists does the DHB have available to diagnose and treat pelvic pain and possible endometriosis?*

Seven.

6. *Of the patients who had advanced laparoscopic surgery to treat suspected endometriosis in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time to get that operation?*

Nine months from the time they are placed on the surgical booking list.

7. *Of the patients who had laparoscopic surgery to treat pelvic pain in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time to get that operation?*

Current Gynecology elective surgery waiting times for routine patients is 18 months to 2 years. The shortest wait was 7 weeks and the longest wait was 2 years. If a patient's symptoms get worse they are able to visit their GP who can re-refer the patient to the Gynecology Team to have their clinical priority reviewed.

8. *A copy of the DHBs clinical pathway to treat suspected endometriosis.*

There is no specific Northland DHB pathway, but there is a Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) pathway available via the link below.

[https://ranzcof.edu.au/RANZCOG\\_SITE/media/RANZCOG-MEDIA/Women%27s%20Health/Statement%20and%20guidelines/Clinical%20-%20Gynaecology/Endometriosis-clinical-practice-guideline.pdf?ext=.pdf](https://ranzcof.edu.au/RANZCOG_SITE/media/RANZCOG-MEDIA/Women%27s%20Health/Statement%20and%20guidelines/Clinical%20-%20Gynaecology/Endometriosis-clinical-practice-guideline.pdf?ext=.pdf)

9. *Of the patients who saw a specialist with serious back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time for that appointment?*

Six months

10. *Of the patients who saw a specialist with serious back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time for that appointment?*

The shortest was less than one week and the longest was 13 months.

11. *Of the patients who had orthopedic surgery to treat back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the average wait time for that appointment?*

Six months from the time they are placed on the surgical booking list.

12. *Of the patients who had orthopedic surgery to treat back pain, in the last 12 months, what was the longest and shortest wait time for that operation?*

Current Orthopaedic elective surgery waiting times for routine patients is up to 1 year. The shortest wait was 2 weeks and the longest wait was 1 year. If a patient's symptoms get worse they are able to visit their GP who can re-refer the patient to the Orthopaedic Team to have their clinical priority reviewed.

Northland DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist public understanding of how we deliver our services. This includes proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been provided to you. Personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be publicly available we will consider your views.

If you have any questions regarding Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact Northland DHB's Communications Manager, in the first instance at [communications@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:communications@northlanddhb.org.nz) .

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'J' followed by a series of connected loops and a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**John Wansbone**  
**Acting Chief Executive**