

7 July 2022



Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

You have asked for information about gynaecology services.

1. How many people have been referred/requested appointments to Northland DHB's gynaecology services in the past five years, broken down by the individual year?

Measure	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 Jan - May
Referrals Received	2712	2923	3185	3123	3854	1487
Clinic Appointment / Assessment	1876	2046	2135	2090	2616	987

Data is sourced from the RMS referral management system which includes external referrals from 2017-2022 and includes internal referrals from 2020 onwards

2. Of those, in the past five year, how referrals, requests have eventuated into appointments, broken down by the individual year?

Measure	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 Jan - May
Clinic Appt/Assesment Patients Seen	1710	1869	1941	1885	2258	640

Patients triaged under Gynaecology who require a Clinic Appointment/Assessment are usually seen in a Gynaecology clinic but may also be seen in a Colposcopy, Missed Miscarriage or other related Gynaecology clinic. The totals below are the number of Clinic Appointment/ Assessment patients referred to above who were seen in one of the Gynaecology clinics. Patients not seen are usually a result of patient circumstances such as: moved out of Northland, did not attend, went private etc. Recent referrals with an outcome of Clinic Appointment/Assessment will still be waiting for First Specialist Appointment (FSA).

3. What has been the average wait time for gynaecology appointments at Northland DHB for the past five years, broken down by the individual year?

Measure	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 Jan - May
Average Wait from Referral to FSA (Days)	75	78	88	79	74	83
Avg Wait for Urgent Patients (Days)	11	9	12	9	9	11

4. What has been the shortest and longest time a person has had to wait for an appointment since 2017?

Measure	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022 Jan - May
Minimum Wait from Referral to FSA (Days)	0	0	0	0	0	0
95% Percentile Wait (Days)	140	150	171	205	193	209

Long waiting times for FSA may be due to patient reasons such as sickness, transport issues or they did not attend their first offered appointment. The 95% percentile waiting time is shown above which would account for most patient delays. Additional delays from 2020 are largely due to COVID-19 lockdowns and sickness.

5. How many people have had to wait over a year for an appointment?

Thirteen patients waited longer than a year for an FSA in the period 2017 – May 2022 which is 0.1% of patients. Eleven of these were due to patient reasons.

6. How many people are currently on the waitlist for Northland DHBs gynaecology services?

521 patients are currently waiting for a Gynaecology FSA.

7. Have some wait-list for certain gynaecology services increased more significantly more specifically than others, e.g., waiting list for conditions such as prolapse, heavy bleeding or endometriosis?

We don't maintain a database which records the information requested. In order to provide it a manual review of all referrals would be necessary requiring substantial research. We also don't have wait lists for specific conditions eg prolapse, heavy bleeding or endometriosis. I have therefore decided to decline this part of your request in accordance with section 18(f) of the Official Information Act as the information cannot be provided without substantial research and collation. You have a right to complain to the Ombudsman about my decision to withhold the information.

We support 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 our response to your information request please contact our Communications Manager, in the first instance at communications@northlanddhb.org.nz.

Ngā mihi



Tracey Schiebli

Interim District Director

Te Tai Tokerau / Northern Region

