

7 July 2022



Tēnā koe

Official Information Act Request

I write further to Dr Nick Chamberlain's letter of 16 June 2022.

You have asked for information about hospital wait times.

1. *The average wait time to see an oncologist after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
2. *The longest and shortest wait time to see an oncologist after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
3. *The average wait time for cancer surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
4. *The longest and shortest wait time for cancer surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
5. *The average wait time to see a cardiologist after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
6. *The longest and shortest wait time to see a cardiologist after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
7. *The average wait time for heart surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
8. *The longest and shortest wait time for heart surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
9. *The average wait time to see an orthopedic surgeon after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
10. *The longest and shortest wait time to see an orthopedic surgeon after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
11. *The average wait time for orthopedic surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
12. *The longest and shortest wait time for orthopedic surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
13. *The average wait time for a gynecologist appointment after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
14. *The longest and shortest wait time for a gynecologist appointment after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
15. *The average wait time for gynecological surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
16. *The longest and shortest wait time for gynecological surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
17. *The average wait time for a urologist appointment after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*

18. *The longest and shortest wait time for a urologist appointment after a referral has been sent from the patient's GP for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
19. *The average wait time for urology surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
20. *The longest and shortest wait time for urology surgery after a patient's First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
21. *The average wait time for a respiratory specialist appointment/ or general medicine specialist for respiratory problems after a referral from a GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
22. *The longest and shortest wait time for a respiratory specialist appointment/ or general medicine specialist for respiratory problems after a referral from a GP, for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
23. *The average wait time for respiratory surgery after a First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
24. *The longest and shortest wait time for a respiratory surgery after a First Specialist Appointment (FSA), for the last five years between 2018 to this year to date.*
25. *The average wait time for a patient visiting the emergency department, for the last five years from 2018 to this year to date.*
26. *The longest and shortest wait time for a patient visiting the emergency department for the last five years from 2018 to this year to date.*

The information you have requested is set out in the following tables. Please note:

Days between Referral to FSA for GP Referrals

- Patients are normally triaged as urgent, semi urgent or routine. Urgent patients are generally seen within 14 days.
- Patients may cancel or not attend their first specialist appointment (FSA) thereby increasing the days waiting from referral to FSA. The longest wait time is therefore reported as the 90th percentile which accounts for most patient initiated delays.

Days between Placement on the Surgical booking List and Surgery Date

- After FSA patients may have multiple follow-up appointments, diagnostic investigations or intentional delays before proceeding to surgery. The days between being placed on the surgical booking list is calculated between the date patients are added to the surgical waiting list until the operation date.
- Urgent patients generally undergo surgery within 30 days. Patients may cancel or not attend hospital for surgery thereby increasing the days waiting on the surgical booking list. The longest wait time is therefore reported as the 90th percentile which accounts for most patient initiated delays.
- Cancer surgery is a subset of Orthopaedics, Gynaecology, Urology as other specialties not listed. Cancer surgery includes low-grade or non-invasive cancers which may not require urgent surgery.

Minutes between ED Arrival and Discharge

- Data includes patients presenting to Whangarei, Bay of Islands and Kaitiaki hospitals.
- Waiting time is the minutes from arrival until the patient is discharged, admitted or transferred from ED. Patients waiting 0 minutes are likely to be admitted or transferred directly on arrival to ED.
- The longest waiting time is shown as the number of patients waiting longer than 24 hours in ED.

27. All reports discussing hospital wait times and emergency department delays, dated between Jan 2021 to date, held by the DHB.

Regular reports on hospital wait times were given to the Board's Equity in Hospital Committee/ Hospital Advisory Committee. These are publicly available and can be found on our website www.northlanddhb.org.nz/publications.

28. All reports discussing increasing patient transfers between hospitals under the new Health New Zealand model, between Jan 2021 to date, held by the DHB.

We do not hold any specific reports on this subject.

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

Te Whatu Ora

Health New Zealand

Te Tai Tokerau

GP Referrals Waiting Days from Referral to FSA	Shortest Wait Time (Days)					Average Wait Time (Days)					Longest Wait Time* (Days)				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Medical Oncology	0	1	0	0	0	29	22	20	22	24	45	37	32	34	43
Cardiology	1	1	2	2	4	71	87	139	168	107	128	188	374	411	241
Orthopaedics	10	6	0	2	0	143	197	259	191	233	196	266	383	322	387
Gynaecology	0	0	0	0	1	83	80	59	60	70	134	141	163	163	182
Urology	0	0	0	0	0	91	72	103	106	92	142	128	213	248	167
Respiratory	1	2	1	2	2	66	88	107	64	61	150	217	301	212	254

Waiting Days from date added to the SBL to Surgery	Shortest Wait Time (Days)					Average Wait Time (Days)					Longest Wait Time* (Days)				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Cancer Surgery	0	0	0	0	4	43	50	53	49	35	106	114	122	97	60
Heart Surgery	Not performed at NDHB					Not performed at NDHB					Not performed at NDHB				
Orthopaedics	5	1	1	5	4	158	156	181	188	174	245	275	321	343	366
Gynaecology	1	1	1	1	1	82	101	120	146	125	195	310	412	412	360
Urology	2	2	6	5	8	69	116	126	142	112	160	267	317	312	286
Respiratory Surgery	Not performed at NDHB					Not performed at NDHB					Not performed at NDHB				

Minutes from Arrival to Discharge	Shortest Wait Time (Minutes)					Average Wait Time (Minutes)					Patients Waiting 24 hours +				
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
All NDHB ED's	0	0	0	0	0	209	228	215	225	238	29	13	6	7	9