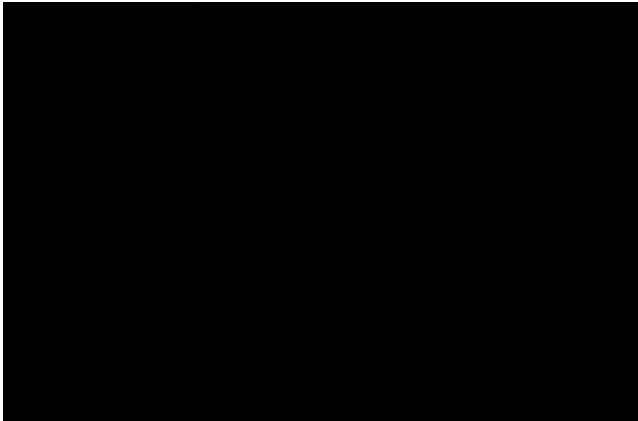


24 June 2020

Auckland DHB
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Auckland City Hospital
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Re Official Information Request – Access to services for people with Multiple Sclerosis

I refer to your official information request dated 2 June 2020 requesting the following information:

Multiple Sclerosis New Zealand contacted you in July 2018 regarding the services experienced in your DHB by people with Multiple Sclerosis, with a particular focus on Neurology services. We are contacting you once again to understand the access to services and how this may have changed. We are trying to understand the situation across the country and would be grateful if you would arrange for the following information in respect to your DHB.

Staffing Numbers

1. How many Neurologists do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

20 Neurologists, 14.6 FTE

2. How many Neurologists are Multiple Sclerosis Specialists on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

2 Neurologists, 0.69 FTE. These work as general neurologists as well as having specialist knowledge on the management of MS.

3. How many Neurologists on your staff see patients with Multiple Sclerosis?

All 20

4. How many Neurology Nurses do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

There is 1 ward that is shared by general neurology, acute stroke and general medicine. The nurses on that ward share the care across all 3 groups. There are approximately 34 FTE covering the ward with approximately 6 nurses on the ward at any time.

MS is generally managed in an ambulatory setting, which means they are seldom admitted as inpatients. In the ambulatory setting, the nursing care is provided in the Neurology daystay where there are 2 FTE general nursing as well as the MS Nurse Specialists as described in point 5 below.

5. How many MS Nurse Specialists are on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

2 Nurses, 1.6 FTE.

Waiting Times

We appreciate COVID-19 may impact the data so we request the information to relate to the period from April 2019 – end March 2020.

6. What is the current waiting time for a/an:

a) First specialist neurology outpatients' appointment?

As of the start of June 2020 the average waiting times were:

P1 (Urgent) 3 days

P2 (Semi-urgent) 26 days

P3 78 days

P4 114 days

b) Follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment?

This is variable based on individual patient factors.

c) Outpatient MRI?

This is variable based on triage category, DHB of domicile (scans requested by an Auckland DHB neurologist will be performed at patient's local DHB).

d) Outpatient infusion clinic appointment?

No significant access delay. The infusions are administered at the appropriate intervals.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. 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 faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ailsa Claire".

Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive

