

29 November 2017

**Auckland Metro Regional Response**

Clinical: Medical

Proactive Release 13 December 2018

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

**Re Official Information Request for chemotherapy, funding of chemotherapy drugs, and Herceptin treatment in breast cancer patients**

I refer to your Official Information Act request of 1 November 2018 to the Auckland DHB and As part of the Regional Cancer & Blood Services at Auckland DHB, the transfer from Waitemata DHB on 1 November 2018 and the Counties Manukau DHB 5 November 2018 for the following information:

- 1. how many rounds of chemotherapy a patient is entitled to under the DHB  
NB: If this differs between cancers please outline this - otherwise I am specifically asking about breast cancer patients**
- 2. what chemotherapy drugs the DHB is funded for, broken down by drug and length of treatment a patient is entitled to**

In addition, Waitemata DHB (5 November 2018) and Counties Manukau DHB ( 5 November 2018) transferred the third part of your OIA request to Auckland DHB and we have responded accordingly.

- 3. \*the number of herceptin treatments in breast cancer patients under the DHB each year, from January 1 2008 - to Nov 1 2018**

The information you have requested is enclosed below.

There are no limitations on the number of "rounds" of chemotherapy offered a patient. Chemotherapy is mostly protocol-driven and based on clinical trial evidence. The protocol may define the number of doses/cycles, but not the number of 'rounds.'

There are no restrictions or limits on the number of treatments. Protocols will differ between different cancer types and within the different stages of a cancer type.

Pharmac approves funding of drugs and the list is publicly available at their site

<https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/tools-resources/pharmaceutical-schedule/>

In response to your third question on behalf of the Auckland DHB, I can advise the number of

In response to your third question on behalf of the Auckland DHB, I can advise the number of Herceptin treatments in breast cancer patients is:

### Herceptin volume by DHB of domicile & Breast Tumour stream

DHB of Domicile	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Auckland	331	535	606	538	544	748
Counties Manukau	453	450	573	696	714	790
Waitemata	487	534	546	620	857	826
Northland	18	60	53	3	12	16
Other	19	33	39	26	39	8
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1308</b>	<b>1612</b>	<b>1817</b>	<b>1883</b>	<b>2166</b>	<b>2388</b>

Note: The listing of herceptin volumes into tumour streams is taken from the assessment appointments.

I trust this information answers your questions.

You are entitled to seek a review under the Official Information Act section 28(3) of the response. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://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

Ailsa Claire, OBE  
Chief Executive