

Clinical: Medical
Proactive Release: 20 December 2018



17 December 2018

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
NZ Taxpayers' Union/ Auckland Ratepayers' Alliance
PO Box 10518,
The Terrace
Wellington

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED],

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 26 November 2018. You requested the following information related to admissions related to adverse drug reactions:

For each of the 2015/16, 2016/17, and 2017/18 Financial Years:

- 1. The total number of admissions to hospital each year.**
- 2. The average (both mean and median) bed-stay of patients admitted to hospital each year.**
- 3. The total number of admissions to hospital in relation to "adverse drug reactions" each year.**
 - *Please interpret any mention of "drugs" in this request to be solely related to prescription drugs.*
 - *Please interpret "adverse drug reactions" to be defined as an "unwanted or harmful reaction experienced following the administration of a drug or combination of drugs under normal conditions of use and is suspected to be related to the drug."*
- 4. The total cost of admissions in relation to adverse drug reactions, each year.**
- 5. The total number of admissions to hospital in relation to adverse drug reactions, each year which were preventable.**
 - *Please interpret "preventable ADR admission" to be defined as an "ADRs caused by medication errors, whether they be acts of omission or commission, incorrect medication / dose / timing, administration of a medication to a patient with a known allergy, inadequate monitoring, or other errors."*
- 6. The total cost of the preventable admissions.**
- 7. The average (both mean and median) bed-stay of patients admitted to hospital in relation to adverse drug reactions.**

Please use caution in comparing the raw data provided between different DHBs, given that there will be differences in each DHB population size and health needs, as well as the DHB services provided. In addition, the methods of extracting these cases from clinical coding data may vary between DHBs, and provide data that is not directly comparable.

We note that Counties Manukau Health provides health and community services to more than 545,000 people living in the Counties Manukau and Franklin districts, and also provides national, regional and supra-regional services for Burns, Spinal Cord Injury, as well as Plastic Surgery and specialist orthopaedic (Hands) services across Auckland.

In response to your request, we can provide the following information.

1. The total number of admissions to hospital each year.

Fiscal Year	Number of cases
2015/16	124,218
2016/17	125,741
2017/18	126,428

Notes: Admit Source - Middlemore Hospital only, includes acute and elective cases, all specialties are included

2. The average (both mean and median) bed-stay of patients admitted to hospital each year.

Fiscal Year	Number of cases	Median Length of Stay	Average Length of Stay
2015/16	124,218	1	2.8
2016/17	125,741	1	2.8
2017/18	126,428	1	2.9

3. The total number of admissions to hospital in relation to “adverse drug reactions” each year.

From these admitted cases, the following were coded with a primary diagnosis related to an adverse drug reaction.

Fiscal Year	Adverse drug reactions cases
2015/16	33
2016/17	36
2017/18	32

Notes: Search criteria

ICD10 Diagnosis Code	Diagnosis Description
T88.6	Anaphylactic shock, due to adverse effect of correct drug or medicament properly administered
T88.7	Unspecified adverse effect of drug or medicament

We have extracted from clinical coding data where the ICD-10 Diagnosis code those cases for the two codes noted above, which reflect cases of adverse drug reactions of correctly administered and prescribed drugs. These are primary diagnosis rather than secondary contributing factors.

We note this data therefore does not include cases of accidental or improper use of drugs (including accidents in the use of or technique of administration of drugs and medicaments) leading to an admission, as these will be coded under poisoning (codes T36-T50) or cases of accidental exposure to noxious substances, (codes X40-X44).

In addition, there will be patients who require additional care during a hospital admission due to an adverse drug reaction or adverse effect in therapeutic use of medications occurring (codes Y40-Y59), rather than that reaction causing the admission, even when these medications are correctly administered. Their admission will be principally to treat another health condition.

It is not possible to reliably determine if patients were admitted to hospital due solely to an adverse drug reaction in the community; or presented at hospital and were admitted due to other factors related to their health status and medications use.

The cases provided here will not include cases presenting to the CM Health Emergency Department and staying less than 3 hours, and are likely to be under-representative of all community occurring adverse drug reactions, which will still range from minor irritants to significant reactions.

4. The total cost of admissions in relation to adverse drug reactions, each year.

Of the admissions coded above, the following costs were identified.

Fiscal Year	Total Cost	Adverse drug reactions cases
2015/16	\$93,743.64	33
2016/17	\$38,535.85	36
2017/18	\$62,900.97	32

5. The total number of admissions to hospital in relation to adverse drug reactions, each year which were preventable.

6. The total cost of the preventable admissions.

Counties Manukau Health does not hold information to inform a response to your questions on whether the adverse Drug Reaction (ADR) admissions that may have been preventable, or to isolate the costs related to those events.

The clinical coding system does not include a means to reference the circumstances contributing to a medical event, which may only be noted in the patient notes if provided. In addition, it is not always immediately identified that an adverse drug reaction created the need for admission to hospital.

7. The average (both mean and median) bed-stay of patients admitted to hospital in relation to adverse drug reactions.

Fiscal Year	Adverse drug reactions cases	Median Length of Stay	Average Length of Stay
2016	33	1.0	1.7
2017	36	0.5	0.5
2018	32	0.5	1.0

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau DHB website.

Yours sincerely,



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive