

Clinical: Elective Surgical
Proactive Release: 01 August 2019



22 July 2019

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Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, dated 02 July 2019. You requested the following information:

- **The Clinical Priority Assessment Criteria threshold level (in order to be eligible for publicly funded electives), at the Counties Manukau DHB for the following elective procedures:**
 1. **Cardiothoracic**
 2. **Ear, nose and throat**
 3. **General surgery**
 4. **Gynaecology**
 5. **Neurosurgery**
 6. **Ophthalmology**
 7. **Orthopaedics**
 8. **Paediatric surgical**
 9. **Plastic and burns**
 10. **Urology**
 11. **Vascular surgery**

For context, we note that Counties Manukau Health uses the Clinical Priority Assessment Criteria (CPAC) national tools to 'grade' all elective referrals. These national tools are developed by expert clinical working parties, and include three dimensions: clinical, patient-experienced, and social. These dimensions generated a total score, to score a referral from 0 to 100 (least to most urgent).

To support the CPAC scoring system, the Senior Clinician completing the priority grading/ score also takes into consideration the overall clinical picture, including any additional information and diagnostic investigations provided in the referral. Referrals and specific procedures within specialties are prioritised with clinically agreed timeframes indicated, which are advised to the referrer.

The current *Clinical Priority Assessment Criteria* threshold levels at Counties Manukau DHB (in order to be eligible for publicly funded electives) for the specified elective procedures are in table 1:

Speciality	CPAC Score for <i>Certainty of Treatment</i> threshold - at 1 July 2019	Comment
2. Ear, nose and throat	55	
3. General surgery	30	
4. Gynaecology	70	
6. Ophthalmology	55	
7. Orthopaedics	65	
9. Plastics and Burns	75	<i>CM Health is the northern regional provider</i>
10. Urology	70	

Table 1

Please note:

- Referrals for *Cardiothoracic, Neurosurgery, Vascular surgery, and Paediatric surgical services* are completed (and therefore managed) via Northern DHB regional contracts, and are not provided at CM Health services/ facilities. The CPAC scores will be allocated by the DHB that provides these services for all regional cases (Auckland DHB).
- All referrals for *Plastics and Burns* in the Northern DHB region are assessed on the CPAC score in the table, as CM Health is the regional provider.

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 Officer
Counties Manukau Health