

5<sup>th</sup> October 2020



Email: 

Dear 

### **Official Information Act Request for – Colonoscopy Services**

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020, you requested the following information:

1. How many patients were on the waiting list for colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?
2. What was the average wait time for urgent or category A colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?
3. What was the average wait time for non-urgent or category B colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?
4. What was the average wait time for surveillance or routine colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?
5. What was the ratio between colonoscopies performed for non-urgent patients, versus patients referred through the National Bowel Screening Programme at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020? (If the screening programme has been rolled out in your DHB area).
6. How many of your patients have recovered from colorectal cancer, versus those that died from the disease between August 2019 and August 2020?
7. How many colonoscopies lead to a confirmed diagnosis of colorectal cancer each month from August 2018 to August 2020?
8. How many categories does your DHB divide your waiting list into? What are the criteria for each category?
9. How many people are presently on the colonoscopy waiting list for each of these categories?
10. How long is the average waiting time for each category?

### **Counties Manukau Health Response:**

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 7,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 569,400 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

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3. What was the average wait time for non-urgent or category B colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?
4. What was the average wait time for surveillance or routine colonoscopies at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020?

Questions 1-4 of your request are reflected below in table 1. In reference to the table below, it should be noted that the wait time for surveillance is related to the surveillance category that the patient has been placed in (as per the triaging clinician). This could range from 3 months to 5 years.

The total overall increase in procedures for the Gastroenterology Department was 74% from 2013/14 to 2019/20 (an average of 12% per annum). Colonoscopy however demonstrated an increase of 98% (average 16% per annum) from 2013/14 – 2019/20. The volume of outsourced procedures in 2019/20 equates to 23% of the total procedures performed. We have demonstrated a decrease in average time waiting since early 2018.

Outpatient Colonoscopy Services						
Year	Month	Patients on Waiting List		Urgent Average Wait Time – P1 (days)	Non-urgent Average Wait Time – P2 (days)	Surveillance Average Wait Time (days)
		(P1-P2)	(Surveillance)			
2018	Jan	431	4,156	11	47	502
	Feb	520	4,172	10	51	507
	Mar	513	4,215	10	48	586
	Apr	550	4,284	11	44	647
	May	546	4,383	12	44	628
	Jun	543	4,452	11	40	766
	Jul	408	4,514	9	30	731
	Aug	336	4,515	9	27	683
	Sep	362	4,550	10	31	946
	Oct	372	4,625	11	33	781
	Nov	408	4,699	11	33	690
	Dec	410	4,843	9	31	632
2019	Jan	407	4,921	14	41	630
	Feb	436	5,016	13	36	683
	Mar	440	5,083	10	33	757
	Apr	477	5,154	9	36	771
	May	458	5,246	9	37	792
	Jun	490	5,346	12	39	688
	Jul	637	5,435	10	41	734
	Aug	579	5,541	11	37	654
	Sep	599	5,676	13	38	725
	Oct	659	5,800	11	39	584
	Nov	618	5,920	9	38	577
	Dec	627	6,065	11	39	586
2020	Jan	642	6,213	12	43	592
	Feb	500	6,315	10	36	561
	Mar	472	6,456	9	30	632
	Apr	450	6,557	12	50	630
	May	452	6,648	11	38	760
	June	332	6,659	12	22	621
	July	316	6,749	11	25	552
	August	379	6,851	11	34	264

Table 1: Data Sourced iPM 24/09/2020

5. What was the ratio between colonoscopies performed for non-urgent patients, versus patients referred through the National Bowel Screening Programme at the end of each month from August 2018 to August 2020? (If the screening programme has been rolled out in your DHB area).

P2 – Colonoscopy Procedures												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	127	173	225	218	271	334	315	307	217	234	231	188
2019	189	225	189	200	216	187	284	272	239	255	282	226
2020	297	271	288	87	399	354	274	102	-	-	-	-

Table 2: Data Sourced iPM 24/09/2020

Patient Referrals - Bowel Screening Programme												
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	34	34	52	37
2019	38	58	63	60	51	63	54	60	61	74	67	51
2020	57	67	75	9	80	42	46	40	-	-	-	-

Table 3: Data Sourced iPM 24/09/2020

6. How many of your patients have recovered from colorectal cancer, versus those that died from the disease between August 2019 and August 2020?

CM Health's focus is around the care and treatment of each patient and their recovery from colorectal cancer. We do not routinely collect the information requested and to obtain it would involve manually searching the file of each patient. Therefore, we are declining your request under s.18(f) of the Official Information Act as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

7. How many colonoscopies lead to a confirmed diagnosis of colorectal cancer each month from August 2018 to August 2020?

Patients diagnosed with colorectal cancer via the National Bowel Screening Pathway (NBSP) are identified in table 4 below. This represents patients referred onto surgical services and captures all cancers diagnosed via the NBSP.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
2018	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	5	5
2019	2	11	6	4	3	6	5	2	7	10	3	3
2020	5	9	4	1	9	5	1	4	-	-	-	-

Table 4: Data Sourced Service Delivery Manager Bowel Screening 02.10.2020

8. How many categories does your DHB divide your waiting list into? What are the criteria for each category?

Categories	Criteria
P1 – Urgent	Within 14 days
P2 – Routine	Within 42 days
Surveillance	Within 84 days



9. How many people are presently on the colonoscopy waiting list for each of these categories?

Categories	Number of patients on wait list
P1	16
P2	820
Surveillance	7808

10. How long is the average waiting time for each category?

Categories	Average Wait Time
P1	14 days
P2	66 days
Surveillance	102 days

Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient, ambulatory and community-based models of care. We provide regional and supra-regional specialist services i.e. for orthopaedics, plastics, burns and spinal services. There are also several specialist services provided including tertiary surgical services, medical services, mental health and addiction services.

I trust that this information is helpful. 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or Freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response or an edited version of this may be published on the Counties Manukau Health website. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely



**Fepulea'i Margie Apa**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Counties Manukau Health**