

4th November 2021

s9(2)(a)

Official Information Act Request for – Endometriosis

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 6th October 2021, you requested the following information:

1. Does the Counties Manukau Health Chronic Pain Service offer support for people with endometriosis?
2. If so, when did the service decide to offer pain management for people with endometriosis?
3. Why did the service decide to offer pain management for people with Endometriosis?
4. How many people with endometriosis have you helped with chronic pain management through the service, over the past 5 years? broken down by year?
5. Would you consider the demand for chronic pain relief for people suffering from Endometriosis high?
6. Is there a waitlist for people with endometriosis seeking pain relief at the service? How many people are on the waitlist?
7. What has the average wait time for an appointment been over the last 5 years? Broken down by year?
8. What chronic pain relief options are being offered for people with Endometriosis?

Counties Manukau Health Response:

For context Counties Manukau Health (CM Health) employs over 8,500 staff and provides health and support services to people living in the Counties Manukau region (approx. 601,490 people). We see over 118,000 people in our Emergency Department each year, and over 2,000 visitors come through Middlemore Hospital daily.

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.

1. Does the Counties Manukau Health Chronic Pain Service offer support for people with endometriosis?

Yes, once their gynaecological management has been exhausted.

2. If so, when did the service decide to offer pain management for people with endometriosis?

The Chronic Pain Service at CM Health was established in 2011 and accepted referrals from that date however women with endometriosis waiting for gynaecology treatment will not be accepted to the Chronic Pain Service until their gynaecology treatment has been completed and if further pain management is required.

3. Why did the service decide to offer pain management for people with Endometriosis?

Because even when gynaecological management has been exhausted, some women will still have pain which can then be better managed through the chronic pain team.

4. How many people with endometriosis have you helped with chronic pain management through the service, over the past 5 years? broken down by year?

We are unable to provide this data as our systems do not differentiate the underlying clinical reason for a referral. As this is not data that is routinely collect by CM Health, to obtain it would involve considerable time to manually search through individual patient files. We have, therefore, determined to decline this element of your request under Section 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation and research.

5. Would you consider the demand for chronic pain relief for people suffering from Endometriosis high?

Most women with endometriosis at CMDHB, who require secondary care, are under the care of a gynaecologist waiting for gynaecological treatment and therefore are not referred to the Chronic Pain Service. We are instituting a nurse-led conservative management pathway from December 2021 which will provide another care option for women who may not want surgery or whilst waiting for surgery.

6. Is there a waitlist for people with endometriosis seeking pain relief at the service? How many people are on the waitlist?

We are unable to provide this data as our systems do not differentiate the underlying clinical reason for a referral.

7. What has the average wait time for an appointment been over the last 5 years? Broken down by year?

The table below reflects the average waiting time for all patients waiting for the Chronic Pain Service regardless of their condition, not limited to gynaecology or endometriosis. We do not have the ability to separate this information out individually for gynaecology or endometriosis.

Fiscal Year	Average Waiting Days		Average Waiting Days
	FSA	Follow-up	
2016/17	76	50	62
2017/18	96	143	105
2018/19	90	85	88
2019/20	102	61	84
2020/21	101	96	99
Total	93	77	86

8. What chronic pain relief options are being offered for people with Endometriosis?

Women with endometriosis are offered most pain relief options available and one of our gynaecologists has a special interest in chronic pain and uses her pain relief expertise for women with endometriosis in the outpatient setting.

I trust this information answers your request. 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 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

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a final flourish, representing the name Fepulea'i Margie Apa.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health