

28th January 2021

[REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request for – Hip & Knee Replacements

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 8th December 2020, you requested the following information:

- 1. The number of patients who received a hip replacement for the period of 1/1/20 – 30/11/20.**
- 2. The number of patients who received a knee replacement for the period of 1/1/20 – 30/11/20**
- 3. The number of patients who received a hip replacement who were referred by a private specialist.**
- 4. The number of patients who received a knee replacement who were referred by a private specialist.**
- 5. The number of patients who received a knee or hip replacement that were referred privately by a specialist who also contracts or works for your DHB.**
- 6. The number of privately referred patients who do not have to undertake a first specialist appointment.**

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. 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.

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. The number of patients who received a hip replacement for the period of 1/1/20 – 30/11/20.

CM Health had a total of 359 patients receive hip replacements for the period of 1st January 2020 to 30th November 2020.

2. The number of patients who received a knee replacement for the period of 1/1/20 – 30/11/20

CM Health had a total of 480 patients receive hip replacements for the period of 1st January 2020 to 30th November 2020.

3. The number of patients who received a hip replacement who were referred by a private specialist.

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 1982 as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

4. The number of patients who received a knee replacement who were referred by a private specialist.

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 1982 as the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

5. The number of patients who received a knee or hip replacement that were referred privately by a specialist who also contracts or works for your DHB.

The number of hip and knee replacements combined from a private referral by a CM Health specialist is 2.

6. The number of privately referred patients who do not have to undertake a first specialist appointment.

If it is intended that the referring surgeon is the operating surgeon then a First Specialist Appointment (FSA) is not required, however the patient is required to have a Registered Nurse virtual phone consultation that includes the completion of the national scoring tool process.

All scores are based on the National Scoring Tool questionnaire which is split into two parts with each section having a weighting.

- The 'Patient Impact on Life' questionnaire completed by the patient. This questionnaire asks for a score on six areas which are; social intervention, personal intervention, ability to fulfil the responsibilities to others, personal care, personal safety and leisure activities.
- The 'Surgeon Derived Impact on Patient' Questionnaire is completed by the surgeon who recommends the patient for surgery and scores the patient on five areas which are impact of pain and functional compromise, likelihood of deterioration in symptoms, consequence of deterioration in symptoms/function, amount of benefit from the proposed surgery and risk of surgery for the patient.

When entered into a MOH electronic system a score is generated based on individual weightings built into the system. The scoring system applies to all orthopaedic sub-specialities and is not specifically for hip and knee.

Following the Nurse consultation process the patient must complete an Anaesthetic review process for clearance of medical appropriateness of progressing to surgery.

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, enclosed in a thin black rectangular border. The signature is stylized and appears to be 'F. Margie Apa'.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health