

8th February 2022



Dear 

Official Information Act Request for – Funding of DEXA Scans

I write in response to your Official Information Act request received by us 12th January 2022 by way of transfer from the Ministry of Health, you requested the following information:

For each DHB (except for Capital Coast) can you please tell me if publically funded bone density (DEXA) scans are available for

- 1. All relevant Endocrinology patients**
- 2. Any patient seen in a relevant subspecialty (yes/no adequate detail for both questions).**

The scan could be provided in private but the question is about who pays - the DHB or the patient. If some patients would be funded (e.g. community service card holders) please provide this information.

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.

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CM Health runs a five day a week DEXA scan publicly funded service onsite at Middlemore Hospital. As per your request we can confirm that we offer both inpatient and outpatient scans

for all relevant Endocrinology patients and any patient seen in a relevant subspecialty. We do not contract any out privately.

The criteria as outlined on Health Point is as follows:

- Those with symptoms related to possible osteoporosis e.g. any fracture with minor trauma, vertebral pain/crush fracture and kyphosis.
- Those with a strong family history of osteoporosis.
- Those with known risk factors for osteoporosis e.g. steroid use, catabolic illness, early menopause, thyrotoxicosis, hypogonadism, hypopituitarism, insulin dependent diabetes, low calcium intake etc.
- Consideration can be given to screen those with possible risk of osteoporosis e.g. smokers, slim build, inactivity, postmenopausal women.

Referral expectations

- Patients already in the hospital (inpatients) can be referred by specialists within the hospital. Patients in the community (outpatients) will be referred by their GPs on a designated referral form or a letter with clinical details of the patient and the reason for requesting bone density.

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



Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health