

10 September 2024

Rob Greene
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Tēnā koe Rob

Your request for official information, reference: HN200054199

Thank you for your email on 11 July 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

I would like to request the longest, shortest, median and average wait times for outpatient-patients (referred by GPs to see a specialist (First appointment) at Wellington hospital over the last 12 months). Please provide the wait times data split by each specialty eg.your response should tell the wait times specifically for each specialty like number of days to see a Cardiologist or urologist or gynecologist etc.

If the Data exists please additionally provide the wait-times for GP referrals to the specialists at a national level as well, not just for wellington hospital.

Essentially updated and extended upon data to what was previously provided in this OIA. (OIA2021020102.)

On the 8 August 2024 we let you know that Health NZ would need more time to prepare for this response.

Response

I would like to request the longest, shortest, median and average wait times for outpatient-patients (referred by GPs to see a specialist (First appointment) at Wellington hospital over the last 12 months). Please provide the wait times data split by each specialty eg.your response should tell the wait times specifically for each specialty like number of days to see a Cardiologist or urologist or gynecologist etc.

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora remains committed to the ongoing health and wellbeing of people, whānau and communities across the motu.

Throughout Aotearoa, our services continue to see growing demand from patients with increasing complexities and acuity. This can exacerbate staffing pressures – due to annual leave, general illness, and other unexpected personal reasons. These combined factors mean that patients may sometimes wait longer for a First Specialist Assessment (FSA) or planned care than we would like.

We are working hard to enable a nationally consistent approach to waitlists so that we can speed up the time people are currently waiting for treatment. We acknowledge that, in some instances wait times for planned care have increased and understand this can be distressing for people in this situation. We encourage anyone whose condition changes to see their GP. If appropriate, their referral can be updated.

The table below summarises the number of days between the referral receipt date and the attendance date for patient attending a publicly funded first specialist assessment during the period 1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024 by specialty where the patients was recorded as being referred from a General Practitioner and seen at Wellington Regional Hospital.

Please note that this data is provisional and used for operational purposes. It has not been through the full quality assurance process that we use before publishing data and therefore is subject to change.

July 2023 to June 2024 (12 Months)	Number of Days from Referral Receipt to Visit Date			
	Max	Min	Average	Median
Cardiology - 1st attendance	486	0	125	126
Cardiothoracic - 1st attendance	203	13	70	77
Dermatology - 1st attendance	377	1	148	135
Diabetes - 1st attendance	271	5	43	47
Ear Nose and Throat - 1st attendance	419	0	93	92
Endocrinology - 1st attendance	392	2	58	110
Fracture Clinic - 1st attendance	211	0	10	15
Gastroenterology - 1st attendance	216	2	68	65
General Medicine - 1st attendance	417	0	56	95
General Surgery - 1st attendance	358	1	101	104
Gynaecology - 1st attendance	490	1	101	103
Haematology - 1st attendance	129	1	32	39
Immunology (excludes rheumatology) - 1st attendance	668	3	100	128
Infectious Diseases (incl HIV/Aids) - 1st attendance	92	3	38	37
Medical Oncology - 1st attendance	61	4	27	28
Neurology - 1st attendance	295	0	34	49
Neurosurgery - 1st attendance	345	1	62	85
Ophthalmology - 1st attendance	335	0	6	38
Orthopaedics - 1st attendance	552	0	98	110
Paediatric Medical Outpatient - 1st attendance	393	0	57	63
Paediatric Surgery Outpatient - 1st attendance	202	4	19	25
Radiation Oncology - 1st Attendance	118	0	37	38
Renal Medicine - 1st attendance	267	4	66	62
Respiratory - 1st attendance	672	0	117	124
Specialist Paediatric Cardiac - 1st Attendance	251	6	63	66
Specialist Paediatric Endocrinology - 1st attendance	223	6	75	77
Specialist Paediatric Neurology Outpatient - 1st attendance	82	3	22	29
Specialist Paediatric Respiratory - 1st attendance	173	7	46	59
Urology - 1st attendance	546	0	77	92
Vascular Surgery Outpatient - 1st attendance	468	7	171	170

If the Data exists please additionally provide the wait-times for GP referrals to the specialists at a national level as well, not just for wellington hospital.

I am refusing this part of your request under section 18(g) of the Act as the information you have requested is not held by Health NZ | Te Whatu Ora and we have no grounds to believe that the information is held by another entity subject to the Act.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at h.nzOIA@tewhatuora.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Jamie Duncan
Group Director Operations
Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley