

23 MAY 2016

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Mr Shane Le Brun
Email: fyi-request-3927-5900f158@requests.fyi.org.nz

Ref: H201601614

Dear Mr Le Brun

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request of 26 April 2016 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) as follows:

"I would like to know the Geographic Distribution of the approvals Sativex prescriptions since its availability in NZ several years ago.

- 1. Can I please have a breakdown for all prescriptions by Region/DHB or whatever unit is most convenient based on your recording,*
- 2. Can I also have a breakdown by region of the approvals for "Off-Label" that is conditions other than Multiple Sclerosis related Spasticity,*
- 3. Secondary to this I would also like to see a breakdown of what conditions renewals of Sativex Prescriptions have been approved for, since Sativex has become available.*

This information is in the public interest as we seek to demonstrate regional variances in the availability of Sativex due to the lack of specialists or secondary factors relating to the willingness of specialists to perscribe Sativex. Question 3 is in the public interest as we seek to demonstrate what conditions have had sustained therapeutic benefit from Sativex."

The information relating to this request is itemised below, with copies of documents attached.

Request	Response
<i>1. Can I please have a breakdown for all prescriptions by Region /DHB or whatever unit is most convenient based on your recording.</i>	Approvals to prescribe Sativex are issued to a clinician, for treatment of a specified patient under their care, pursuant to Regulation 22 of the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977. As at 5 May 2016, 126 approvals to prescribe Sativex have been issued. Please note that an approval enables the specified clinician to write prescriptions as required, until the approval expires.

A description of the District Health Board geographic regions referred to in this response is available on the Ministry of Health website at <http://www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/key-health-sector-organisations-and-people/district-health-boards/location-boundaries-map>.

The geographical District Health Board region of the clinician to whom the approvals have been issued is as follows:

DHB Region	Number of approvals
Auckland	12
Bay of Plenty	13
Canterbury	13
Capital and Coast	19
Counties Manukau	6
Hawke's Bay	3
Hutt	1
Lakes	5
MidCentral	11
Nelson Marlborough	9
Northland	10
South Canterbury	1
Southern	11
Waikato	7
Wairarapa	2
Waitemata	2
Whanganui	1
Total	126

Please note that a patient may have received multiple approvals.

2. *Can I also have a breakdown by region of the approvals for "Off-Label" that is conditions other than Multiple Sclerosis related Spasticity.*

Of the 126 approvals to prescribe Sativex issued, 100 of these were for the treatment of non-consented conditions ("off-label" use). The geographical District Health Board region of the clinician to whom these approvals have been issued is as follows:

Prescriber Region	Number of approvals
Auckland	10
Bay of Plenty	9
Canterbury	12

	Capital and Coast	10																										
	Counties Manukau	5																										
	Hawke's Bay	3																										
	Hutt	1																										
	Lakes	4																										
	MidCentral	11																										
	Nelson Marlborough	8																										
	Northland	8																										
	South Canterbury	1																										
	Southern	10																										
	Waikato	5																										
	Wairarapa	2																										
	Whanganui	1																										
	Total	100																										
<p>3. <i>Secondary to this I would also like to see a breakdown of what conditions renewals of Sativex Prescriptions have been approved for, since Sativex has become available.</i></p>	<p>Of the 126 approvals to prescribe Sativex issued, 26 of these were renewals of an existing approval, for example in response to an application to renew an approval when the expiry date of the existing approval is reached. The geographical District Health Board region of the clinician to whom these approvals have been issued is as follows:</p>																											
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Condition(s) treated</th> <th>Number of renewals</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Chronic abdominal pain secondary to surgical misadventure with gut malfunction</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chronic lower back pain</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chronic neuropathic pain</td> <td>2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chronic pain associated with pilocytic astrocytoma</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chronic pain from spinal cord injury</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Chronic severe refractory headaches</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Complex regional pain syndrome</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dravets syndrome</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Medically refractory epilepsy</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Multiple sclerosis</td> <td>3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muscle spasms associated with cerebral palsy with spastic quadraplegia</td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muscle spasms associated with epileptic encephalopathy with medically refractory seizures</td> <td>1</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Condition(s) treated	Number of renewals	Chronic abdominal pain secondary to surgical misadventure with gut malfunction	1	Chronic lower back pain	2	Chronic neuropathic pain	2	Chronic pain associated with pilocytic astrocytoma	1	Chronic pain from spinal cord injury	1	Chronic severe refractory headaches	4	Complex regional pain syndrome	1	Dravets syndrome	1	Medically refractory epilepsy	1	Multiple sclerosis	3	Muscle spasms associated with cerebral palsy with spastic quadraplegia	1	Muscle spasms associated with epileptic encephalopathy with medically refractory seizures	1	
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	Neuropathic pain due to spinal cord injury	1
	Profound nausea leading to weight loss from HIV infection and its treatment	1
	Refractory epilepsy	1
	Severe neuropathic pain as a result of stenotomy and heart bypass surgery	1
	Severe neuropathic pain associated with necrotising encephalitis	1
	Spasm due to severe progressive epilepsy	1
	Tetraplegic with neuropathic pain and spasticity	1
	Total	26

I trust this information fulfils your request.

Yours sincerely



Phil Knipe
Acting Director
Protection, Regulation and Assurance