

14 March 2017

John Warrington

Email: fyi-request-5514-c9d05267@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Warrington

Re Official Information Act Request – Waitlist time for Orthognathic (jaw) surgery

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 10 March 2017 requesting the following information:

What is the eligibility criteria is for my daughter's jaw surgery and braces please. She is a New Zealand citizen, 23 years old and requires her bottom jaw to be re-aligned then to have braces on her teeth afterwards. Can you let me know what the waiting list time would be for this surgery please?

To be eligible for hospital Orthodontics and related Orthognathic surgery the patient must have a severe cranio-facial skeletal abnormality. Criteria to assess the severity of the cranio-facial skeletal abnormality are consistently applied by the Specialist Hospital Orthodontist to ensure only the most severe cases are accepted.

One requirement for eligibility would be that both the top and bottom jaws need realignment. If only one jaw needs realignment, then patients generally do not qualify for hospital orthodontic care. Those with moderate or mild skeletal discrepancies are declined and encouraged to seek care in private practice.

Waiting time depends on a number of factors, as the cases can be so complex that there are sometimes long planning and preparation times getting the patient ready for surgery. However once the patient is ready for surgery then a waiting time of four months post clinic appointment applies. Auckland DHB does not accept patients who are under the care of and referred by a private Orthodontist.

Further general guidance around the eligibility for publicly funded health services is available on the Ministry of Health website here –

www.health.govt.nz/new-zealand-health-system/eligibility-publicly-funded-health-services.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ailsa Claire'.

Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive