

6 November 2017

Health Sector Workers Network

Via e-mail: fyi-request-6688-6fc187be@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Health Sector Workers Network

Official Information Act Request – Our Reference 2017/229

Thank you for your e-mail received by Capital and Coast District Health Board (CCDHB) on 12 October 2017, in which under the Official Information Act 1982 you requested information relating to Emergency Department (ED) presentations and the use of an ED Observation Unit.

Your request asks for the following information. Please see our answers under each.

1. What are the percentages of patients presenting to the Emergency Departments that were admitted, discharged or transferred within six hours of presentation for each month of the year June 2016 to June 2017?

The table below summarises the percentage of presentations to Wellington ED by month over the 13 month period Jun 2016 to Jun 2017 and the grouped outcomes of the patient’s visit and the time spent in the Wellington Emergency Department excluding patients who “Did not wait”.

| | | | Presentations | | | |
|------------------------|------|-----|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | | Presentations | | % of Presentations | |
| | | | Less than Six Hours | More than Six Hours | Less than Six Hours | More than Six Hours |
| Patient Admitted | 2016 | Jun | 1,389 | 401 | 78% | 22% |
| | | Jul | 1,383 | 494 | 74% | 26% |
| | | Aug | 1,379 | 529 | 72% | 28% |
| | | Sep | 1,372 | 508 | 73% | 27% |
| | | Oct | 1,414 | 485 | 74% | 26% |
| | | Nov | 1,410 | 371 | 79% | 21% |
| | 2017 | Dec | 1,467 | 319 | 82% | 18% |
| | | Jan | 1,516 | 269 | 85% | 15% |
| | | Feb | 1,461 | 239 | 86% | 14% |
| | | Mar | 1,581 | 318 | 83% | 17% |
| | | Apr | 1,433 | 308 | 82% | 18% |
| | | May | 1,507 | 342 | 82% | 18% |
| | | Jun | 1,396 | 479 | 74% | 26% |
| Treated and Discharged | 2016 | Jun | 2,865 | 167 | 94% | 6% |
| | | Jul | 2,865 | 284 | 91% | 9% |
| | | Aug | 2,898 | 263 | 92% | 8% |
| | | Sep | 2,865 | 209 | 93% | 7% |
| | | Oct | 3,059 | 221 | 93% | 7% |
| | | Nov | 2,929 | 156 | 95% | 5% |
| | 2017 | Dec | 3,043 | 170 | 95% | 5% |
| | | Jan | 2,974 | 98 | 97% | 3% |
| | | Feb | 2,860 | 109 | 96% | 4% |
| | | Mar | 3,271 | 148 | 96% | 4% |
| | | Apr | 3,075 | 129 | 96% | 4% |
| | | May | 3,236 | 136 | 96% | 4% |
| | | Jun | 2,998 | 197 | 94% | 6% |

2. Please provide any DHB policy concerning guidelines and use of the ED observation unit? By “ED observation unit”, we are referring to the usage defined by the Ministry Of Health in the paper Streaming and the use of Emergency Department Observation Units and Inpatient Assessment Units.

Wellington Regional Hospital’s Short Stay Unit also includes up to 8 ED observation beds. A copy of the Admission Criteria for Short Stay Unit is attached.

3. What percentage of total ED presentations for each month of the year June 2016 to June 2017 utilised the ED Observation unit?

| ED Statistics for EDOU Use | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| % of total ED presentations utilised EDOU | 8% | 7% | 8% | 8% | 8% | 9% | 8% | 8% | 9% | 9% | 8% | 8% | 7% |

4. What percentage of patients utilising the ED observation unit were discharged home from this location for each month of the year June 2016 to June 2017?

| | 06-2016 | 07-2016 | 08-2016 | 09-2016 | 10-2016 | 11-2016 | 12-2016 | 01-2017 | 02-2017 | 03-2017 | 04-2017 | 05-2017 | 06-2017 |
|--------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| ED Statistics for EDOU Use | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % patients discharged home from EDOU | 94% | 95% | 95% | 94% | 92% | 94% | 92% | 92% | 95% | 93% | 95% | 93% | 93% |

5. What is your DHB’s expected length of stay for the patients utilising the ED observation unit?

24 hours

6. What percentage of patients for each month of the year June 2016 to June 2017 exceeding the length of stay given in question 5?

| | 06-2016 | 07-2016 | 08-2016 | 09-2016 | 10-2016 | 11-2016 | 12-2016 | 01-2017 | 02-2017 | 03-2017 | 04-2017 | 05-2017 | 06-2017 |
|------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| ED Statistics for EDOU Use | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % exceeding 24 hour Length of Stay | 7% | 6% | 9% | 8% | 6% | 5% | 8% | 5% | 7% | 5% | 5% | 5% | 7% |

I hope this information addresses your query. You have a right to seek a review, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, by way of a complaint to the Ombudsman, about the information that has been provided to you.

Kind regards



Carey Virtue
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