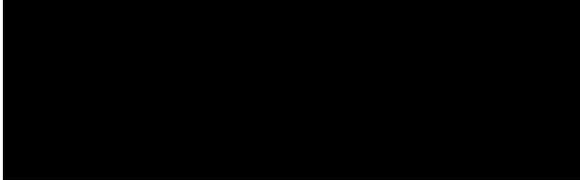




16 February 2022



Dear 

Re: OIA request – CA-125 blood tests

Thank you for your Official Information Act requests seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about CA-125 blood testing volumes.

On 23 December 2021, we provided you with a response to your request for CA-125 testing numbers for 2020. As a result of that response, on 5 January you requested:

To understand whether COVID-19 had any influence on these figures, can you please provide the 2019 figures for CA-125 testing also?

On 24 January, you subsequently requested:

Further to our previous OIA request, we would be grateful for the total number of CA-125 tests performed in your DHB in the 12-month periods of 2018, 2019 and 2021 (we previously requested 2020).

Additionally, if this information is easily available, it would be helpful to understand the total number of patients receiving the test in each period also.

Before responding to your specific questions, it may be useful to provide some context about our services.

Waitematā is the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country, serving a population of around 650,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,600 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing care to our own resident population, we are the Northern Region provider of forensic mental health services and child rehabilitation services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

CA-125 is a protein found in ovarian cancer cells, with the amount of cancer antigen 125 in the bloodstream determined by a blood test.

In response to your request, we are able to provide the following information:

Table 1: Total CA-125 tests in the Waitematā DHB district by calendar year

Year	CA-125 tests performed
2018	437
2019	394
2020	430
2021	326

Table 2: Total CA-125 unique patients tested (number of patients) in the Waitematā DHB district

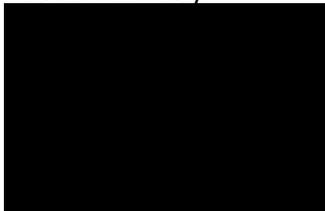
Year	Unique (individual) patients
2018	381
2019	340
2020	397
2021	303

The lower number of tests in 2021 is likely a result of the Alert Level 4 COVID-19 lockdown from 17 August to 21 September and the further Alert Level 3 (step 1) lockdown from 22 September to 9 November.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely



**Executive Director Hospital Services
Waitematā District Health Board**