



20 June 2022



Dear

Re: OIA request – Heart-related hospital admissions

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 24 May via transfer from the Ministry of Health seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about heart-related hospital admissions.

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 more than 8,900 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.

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

2. All acute myocarditis, pericarditis and tachycardia admissions post-COVID-19 diagnosis

Please note that where numbers are fewer than five, we are withholding the exact number under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act to protect the privacy of the individuals involved.

We have considered whether the public interest in releasing this information outweighs the need for individual privacy and have concluded that it does not. The general expectation that medical records will be kept confidential means that patients are entitled to rely on the DHB not to create the risk that they will be identified.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to seek a review is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Waitematā DHB patients - acute myocarditis, pericarditis and tachycardia admissions post COVID-19 diagnosis	
Group	Discharges 1 February 2020 to 30 June 2022
Myocarditis	<5
Pericarditis	12
Tachycardia	8

9. The number of walk-in admissions to emergency departments where a doctor has written anxiety on the discharge notes and the comparative figures for the last five years.

For the purposes of providing the numbers in this OIA request, we have extracted the information using the following ICD (International Classification of Disease) codes which relate to anxiety:

F064 - Organic anxiety disorder

F408 - Other phobic anxiety disorders

F409 - Phobic anxiety disorder, unspecified

F410 - Panic disorder (episodic paroxysmal anxiety)

F411 - Generalised anxiety disorder

F412 - Mixed anxiety and depressive disorder

F413 - Other mixed anxiety disorders

F418 - Other specified anxiety disorders

F419 - Anxiety disorder, unspecified

F930 - Separation anxiety disorder of childhood

F931 - Phobic anxiety disorder of childhood

F932 - Social anxiety disorder of childhood

Y478 - Other sedatives, hypnotics and antianxiety drugs causing adverse effects in therapeutic use

Y479 - Sedative, hypnotic and antianxiety drug, unspecified causing adverse effects in therapeutic use

Waitematā DHB patients	
Calendar year	Total presentations
2017	662
2018	708
2019	675
2020	744
2021	720

The numbers provided should be interpreted within the context of the total number of patient presentations of around 120,000 to North Shore and Waitakere hospitals each year.

I trust that the information we have been able to provide is helpful.

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**