

24 May 2022



Dear 

Re: OIA request – COVID-19 therapeutic drug-dispensing

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 27 April seeking information from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB) about COVID-19 therapeutic drug-dispensing.

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 8,500 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:

Can the DHB please advise how many courses of the following COVID-19 treatments have been physically given to patients to date, to April 26?

- **Baricitinib (Olumiant)**
- **Casirivimab with imdevimab (Ronapreve)**
- **Nirmatrelvir and Ritonavir (Paxlovid)**
- **Remdesivir (Veklury)**
- **Tocilizumab (Actemra)**

On 5 May, we contacted you to advise that, required by section 14 of the Official Information Act, we had transferred part of your request relating to the dispensing of medications to outpatients to Auckland DHB, as the agency which has oversight of the Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC). We confirmed we would provide information relating to the dispensing of the medications to inpatients within our hospitals.

For information related to the treatment of hospital inpatients, where numbers of patients are fewer than four, 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 any patients concerned 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.

Number of inpatient prescriptions at North Shore and Waitakere hospitals				
Month	Baricitinib (Olumiant)	Nirmatrelvir and Ritonavir (Paxlovid)	Remdesivir (Veklury)	Tocilizumab (Actemra)
Aug-2021	-	-	4	≤4
Sep-2021	-	-	12	4
Oct-2021	-	-	4	4
Nov-2021	-	-	20	19
Dec-2021	-	-	10	4
Jan-2022	-	-	-	≤4
Feb-2022	≤4	-	11	≤4
Mar-2022	17	-	51	≤4
Apr-2022	≤4	≤4	8	-
Total	20	<4	120	35

Please note that Ronapreve is not stocked, therefore, there is no usage data for this medication. Data on the number of times a medication is prescribed is affected by when each item became available for use in New Zealand. The dates on which each medication became available, or came in to use, in our inpatient pharmacies are as follows:

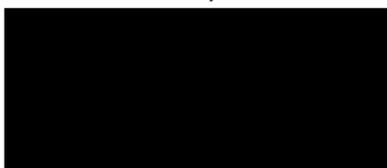
- Baricitinib (Olumiant) –14 February 2022
- Nirmatrelvir and Ritonavir (Paxlovid) – 20 April 2022
- Remdesivir (Veklury) –19 August 2021
- Tocilizumab (Actemra) – 19 August 2021
- Casirivimab with imdevimab (Ronapreve) – Not used for the treatment of Omicron.

Paxlovid is intended for use in the community. In a hospital setting, it is reserved for those who are in hospital for other reasons *and* have incidental findings of COVID-19 *and* are high risk of COVID-19-related complications. It should also be noted that the access criteria for medicines changes over time.

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