



Hospital Services

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14 April 2020

[Redacted]

Dear [Redacted]

Re: OIA request – Avastin for use in cancer treatment

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 16 March 2020 seeking information about the use of the drug Avastin from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

You requested the following information:

Is the drug Avastin - used to treat cancers - administered to any patients in the DHB's public hospitals?

Yes, Avastin is administered to patients in Waitematā DHB.

If so, what is the drug used to treat and how many patients are treated with it?

It is mainly used to treat age-related macular degeneration. As this service is provided by Auckland DHB on our behalf, we have transferred this aspect of your request to them.

A very occasional supply is made available to ORL surgeons (ear, nose and throat surgeons) for treatment of nodes on vocal cords through PHARMAC's Named Patient Pharmaceutical Assessment (NPPA). Four patients have received this treatment in the past two years. It is now a funded treatment on the PHARMAC Hospital Medicines List for recurrent respiratory papillomatosis (nodes).

I trust that this information 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

Dr Debbie Holdsworth
Acting Director Hospital Services
Waitematā District Health Board