

9 March 2021

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Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request - Percentage coverage for diabetic retinal screening

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 10 February 2021 seeking information from Waitematā DHB about the proportion of people with diabetes who have had a retinal screen within the last two years.

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

The percentage coverage for diabetic retinal screening (i.e. the proportion of people with diabetes who have had a retinal screen within the last two years, or other reporting period)?

Waitematā DHB's diabetic eye screening service is a community-based service. We contract this service to two community-based healthcare providers to deliver the service to patients in our region.

The percentage coverage for diabetic retinal screening (i.e. the proportion of people with diabetes who have had a retinal screen within the last two years) is 46%.

COVID-19 has had an additional impact on retinal screening coverage across all DHBs. This impact is believed to be multifactorial, with several contributing factors i.e. clinics closed during lockdown periods, reduced clinic capacity when clinics did re-open and people with diabetes preferring to defer their retinal screen until Alert Level 1.

GPs have been advised that a patient should be re-referred if they are concerned that a person's condition has changed or they need to be seen urgently.

Following these disruptions to service-delivery, retinal screening services have been working to safely manage waiting lists with a regional triaging framework in place to ensure those with the highest clinical need are seen first.

In addition, we are seeking to expand services to ensure that waitlists are reduced for patients across our district.

Please note that the percentage figure provided includes:

- Adults enrolled with a general practice within the Waitematā DHB catchment, **coded** as diabetic by their GP and received a publicly funded diabetic retinal screen by a metro Auckland DHB diabetic retinal screening service in the previous two and three years.

Data caveats:

- Not all practice data is included in this report. Data was provided for 90 out of 100 general practices based in the Waitematā DHB district. This is due to variations in individual practices' reporting systems and their data-sharing agreements with their PHO (primary health organisation).
- Waitematā DHB does not have access to the following information:
 - people who are not enrolled with a PHO.
 - people who live in metro Auckland but are enrolled with a PHO outside of metro Auckland.
 - retinal screening undertaken by private specialists.
 - retinal screening undertaken in a DHB outside metro Auckland.
 - retinal screening undertaken overseas.

We are, therefore, refusing these elements of your request under section 18(g) of the Official Information Act 1982 as the information requested is not held by us.

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

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



Director Funding
Waitematā District Health Board