



04 December 2020



Dear 

RE: OIA request – Surgery threshold

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received 17 November 2020 seeking information about surgery thresholds from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

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

Waitematā DHB serves a population of more than 630,000 across the North Shore, Waitakere and Rodney areas, the largest and one of the most rapidly growing DHBs in the country. We are the largest employer in the district, employing around 8,500 people across more than 80 locations.

In addition to providing services to our own population, we are also the metropolitan Auckland provider of forensic psychiatry, child disability services, child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.

You requested the following information:

What the surgery threshold is for endometriosis laparoscopic surgery, knee replacement, hip replacement?

Waitematā DHB follows Ministry of Health (MoH) guidelines for prioritising patients.

For your information, the following has been sourced from the Electives Resource Pack, Module 5 – Clinical Prioritisation from the Ministry of Health dated May 2014:

“The Clinical Priority Assessment Criteria (CPAC) tools provide a framework to assess the patient’s relative priority based on a range of medical, social and complicating factors and are a documented assessment tool used to prioritise patients. These dimensions generate a total score, scoring patients from 0 to 100 (least to most-urgent). There are two different types of CPAC tools used across DHBs and across surgical specialties, ‘national tools’ and ‘nationally recognised local tools’. Nationally recognised local tools are used for specialties where no nationally developed tool exists.

DHBs individually determine thresholds for access to publicly funded electives for their communities. Individual DHBs establish their own thresholds as quantitative information such as intervention rates, the number of referrals received / accepted and qualitative information

from referrers and surgical services need to be considered to determine an appropriate level of access.”

Based on these guidelines, the CPAC scores Waitematā DHB has set for endometriosis laparoscopic surgery, knee replacement, hip replacement are as follows:

- Endometriosis laparoscopic surgery – 60.
- Hip and knee replacement – between 62 and 65.

Can I also find out whether any surgery thresholds have changed in the last five years at Waitematā DHB. Can this include what the threshold change was and for what surgery?

There have been no changes to surgical thresholds over the past five years.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'MS', written in a cursive style.

Mark Shepherd
Director Provider Healthcare Services
Waitematā District Health Board