



02/07/2020



Official Information Act request: Access to services

Further to your letter dated 02 June 2020 made under the Official Information Act 1982.

Specifically, you requested;

1. How many Neurologists do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

As at 31/03/2020

Staff type	Headcount	FTE
Neurologist	6	5.4

Waikato DHB is currently awaiting the arrival of a further Neurologist from overseas, which will bring the FTE to 6.4

2. How many Neurologists are Multiple Sclerosis Specialists on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

Two of the Waikato DHB clinicians are Multiple Sclerosis specialists.

3. How many Neurologists on your staff see patients with Multiple Sclerosis?

All six doctors see Multiple Sclerosis patients.

4. How many Neurology Nurses do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

As at 31/03/2020

Dept name	Headcount	FTE
Neurology Nursing Personnel	2	1.5
Neurology Research	2	1.5
Total	4	3

Please note: Waikato DHB does not have a definitive classification in our database for “neurology nurses” however these are the numbers of nurses employed within a specialised neurology department.



Neurology patients are looked after by registered nurses if they are an inpatient at Waikato Hospital.

Most neurology patients are located on Ward OPR5 (this is an acute geriatric and neurology ward). On a morning and afternoon shift there are six registered nurses, and there are four registered nurses at night. There are also a number of health care assistants and one-to-one support if needed.

5. How many MS Nurse Specialists are on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

We have four neurology clinical nurse specialists (3 FTE). One of the clinical nurse specialists has lead oversight of Multiple Sclerosis patients, but all clinical nurse specialists support Multiple Sclerosis patient care and clinic infusions.

6. What is the current waiting time for a/an:

a) First specialist neurology outpatients' appointment?

Referral to FSA waiting time	No. of FSAs	Total %
<= 30 days	121	6%
31-60 days	185	9%
61-90 days	134	7%
91-120 days	764	39%
120 + days	757	39%
Grand Total	1,961	

Please note: The table above includes all Neurology first specialist appointments (FSA) between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. Wait times are based on Elective Services Patient Flow Indicator (ESPI2) timeframes set by the Ministry of Health, where the first specialist appointment (FSA) should occur within 4 months of the acceptance of a referral. The wait time will depend on the triage of the referral (acute to non-urgent) rating. We aim see all FSA patients within the 4 month Ministry of Health timeframe.

b) Follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment?

Follow Up waiting time from previous Neurology clinic	No. of FUs	%
<= 3 months	381	27%
4-9 months	653	47%
10-12 months	201	14%
13-18 months	136	10%
19-24 months	29	2%
24+ months	3	0%
Grand Total	1,403	

Please note: The table above includes all follow ups between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020 identified. Waiting time is calculated for each patient from their previous Neurology appointment or follow up clinic date to first follow up in the selected period.

c) **Outpatient MRI?**

MRI waiting time from MRI referral date	No. of patients	%
<= 30 days	484	65%
31-60 days	161	22%
61-90 days	65	9%
91-120 days	22	3%
120 + days	14	2%
Grand Total	746	

Please note: The table above includes all patients referred for an MRI after their first appointment between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. Waiting time is calculated from the referral to MRI to MRI exam date.

d) **Outpatient infusion clinic appointment?**

Infusion waiting time from FSA date	No. of patients	%
<= 30 days	7	64%
31-60 days	2	18%
91-120 days	1	9%
120 + days	1	9%
Grand Total	11	

Please note: The table above includes all patients who have started infusion after their first appointment between 1 April 2019 and 31 March 2020. Waiting time is calculated from the first appointment date to the first infusion clinic.

Waikato DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publically 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.

Yours sincerely



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