

Thursday, 25 June 2020

Re: Official Information Act Request – Wait times and staffing numbers for multiple sclerosis care

Kia ora [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982.

**You asked:**

1. *How many Neurologists do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)*
2. *How many Neurologists are Multiple Sclerosis Specialist on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)*
3. *How many Neurologists on your staff see patients with Multiple Sclerosis?*
4. *How many Neurology Nurses do you have on staff (Numbers and FTE equivalent)*
5. *How many MS Nurse Specialists are on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)*
6. *What is the current waiting time for a/an:*
  - a) *First specialist neurology outpatients' appointment?*
  - b) *Follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment?*
  - c) *Outpatient MRI?*
  - d) *Outpatient infusion clinic appointment?*

**Hauora Tairāwhiti's response is as follows:**

1. Hauora Tairāwhiti has one contracted visiting Neurologist (2.2 days per month, 0.12FTE) and 36 hours off-site support per year.
2. None
3. One
4. Hauora Tairāwhiti has one Registered Nurse in Outpatients (0.6FTE is commensurate with the work required to plan and run Outpatient clinics and follow up).
5. None
6. In responding as below to these questions we note that in the first instance our general medicine consultants would review and manage more urgent presentations, forwarding on to more urgent care as required.
  - a) P1\* = 4-5 months, P2 = 6 months
  - b) 9-12 months
  - c) P1 = less than 2 weeks, P2 and 3 = less than 6 weeks, P4 up to or greater than 6 weeks
  - d) Within 5 days

\*P = Priority level assigned to each appointment, with P1 being the top priority.

If you are not satisfied with this response you may contact the Office of the Ombudsmen, phone 0800 802 602.

Please note this response or an edited version of this response may be published on the Hauora Tairāwhiti DHB website. Your personal/identifying information will be redacted from any responses published. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Ngā mihi

**Jim Green**  
Chief Executive  
Hauora Tairāwhiti