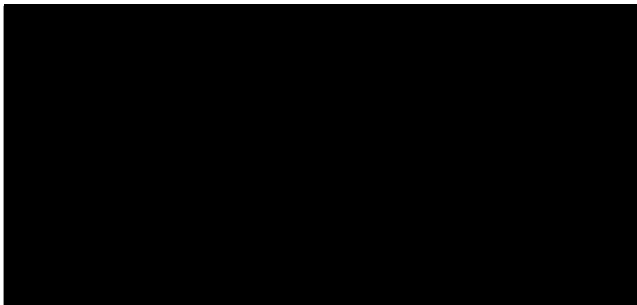


13 September 2018



Re Official Information Request - Costs of treating patients not eligible for publicly funded care

I refer to your official information request dated 13 August 2018 for the following information:

Could you please give me the total cost of treating patients not eligible for publicly funded care in the last year, and compared to the last five years? And how much of that was recouped:

- **From the patients/their private insurance**
- **From the Ministry of Health?**

Specifically, could you tell me about the number of patients and cost of care for ineligible patients:

- **Receiving dialysis**
- **Receiving treatment for diabetes**
- **Have other pancreatic issues**
- **Requiring treatment at Greenlane Eye Clinic**
- **Requiring cardiac care?**

Plus the overall cost of translation services.

May I also add in (just to be totally clear) how much of the costs – in the questions about how money is recouped - are eventually paid for by the DHB itself, and whether that comes from a general operating fund or a specific fund?

We have provided the information in response to your questions below.

Please note:

- The response to all questions excludes patients referred to Auckland DHB who are funded by Pacific governments and aid schemes.
- Our revenue billing system does not hold information on patient diagnosis and treatments. We have therefore provided information based on the clinical service from which the treatment was billed. This will exclude billing from general services such as Emergency Department and General Medicine.
- We do not have a separate pancreatic service, so therefore we are unable to provide a response in relation to pancreatic issues.

Responses:

1. The cost of treating patients not eligible for publicly funded care over the last five years is summarised in the table below.

Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total
\$000's	\$6,434	\$7,546	\$8,137	\$11,121	\$11,851	\$45,090

2. This was recouped as follows:

Source	\$000's
From patients/private insurers	\$30,508
From Ministry of Health	\$10,936
Funded by Auckland DHB *	\$3,646
Total	\$45,090

* The \$3,646k funded by Auckland DHB comes from general operating funds.

3. The cost of care and number of ineligible patients receiving dialysis (based on billing from the Renal Dialysis Service):

Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total
\$000's	\$57	\$85	\$77	\$119	\$285	\$623
No. of Patients	2	6	8	10	10	36

4. The cost of care and number of ineligible patients receiving treatment for diabetes (based on billing from the Diabetes Service):

Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total
\$000's	\$9	\$13	\$13	\$4	\$10	\$49
No. of Patients	22	34	23	19	25	123

5. The cost of care and number of ineligible patients receiving treatment at Greenlane Eye Clinic (based on billing from the Ophthalmology Service):

Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total
\$000's	\$63	\$86	\$84	\$145	\$141	\$519
No. of Patients	88	95	106	135	129	553

6. The cost of care and number of ineligible patients receiving cardiac care (based on billing from Cardiology and Cardiothoracic Services):

Year	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	Total
\$000's	\$774	\$928	\$982	\$2,196	\$2,716	\$7,596
No. of Patients	59	81	97	131	121	489

7. We are unable to provide the overall cost of translation services for this group of patients as the information is not held separately in our revenue billing system.

I trust this information answers your questions.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive

