

14 April 2022

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

I am responding to your official information Act request of 14 March seeking the following information:

- 1. Does your DHB hospital offer a neurology service for patients with chronic migraine i.e a funded clinic whereby patients with chronic migraine can be reviewed by a neurologist?**
- 2. If yes:**
  - 2.1 in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 year, how many patients were seen in each year?**
  - 2.2 is there a waiting list for an appointment? i. And if so, how long on average do patients wait for an appointment?**
- 3. Is there a local clinical treatment guideline for chronic migraine in the DHB and if so, please can this be provided?**
- 4. If the DHB does not provide a chronic migraine service, is there a reason why this is not available?**

#### Response

I am responding from Auckland DHB on behalf of our own DHB and on behalf of Waitemata and Counties Manukau DHBs, who have transferred the OIA requests you made to them to us.

- 1. Does your DHB hospital offer a neurology service for patients with chronic migraine i.e a funded clinic whereby patients with chronic migraine can be reviewed by a neurologist?**

Auckland DHB Neurology is a regional service with outpatient clinics at Auckland Hospital, Greenlane Clinical Centre, North Shore Hospital, Waitakere Hospital and the Mangere Clinic. These are general neurology clinics which include patients with migraine and patients with other neurological conditions. The patient will be seen by a neurologist or a neurology registrar under the supervision of a neurologist. All referrals are triaged individually.

- 2. If yes:**

- 2.1 in the 2019/20 and 2020/21 year, how many patients were seen in each year?**

We don't code our records of Outpatient clinic consultations based on individual diagnosis therefore we cannot count the number of migraine-related consultations.

We refuse this part of your request because the information you request does not exist, citing s 18 (e) Official Information Act.

- 2.2 is there a waiting list for an appointment? i. And if so, how long on average do patients wait for an appointment?**

Yes, there are waiting lists. Waiting time varies based on triaged urgency from 1 week to 4 months. We also provide a non-contact consultation service for referrals requiring only written advice - the target waiting time is 2 weeks.

We refuse that part of your request seeking an average waiting time. We don't code our records of Outpatient clinic consultations based on individual diagnosis therefore we cannot count the number of migraine-related consultations. Determining an average would require manual collation from patient files, notation of wait time and the calculation of an average.

We are unable to provide the information requested as it would require the review of those individual clinical records of patients.

Due to the sensitivity of this information, frontline clinical staff would need to review individual clinical files over the course of two years and it would not be appropriate to use a contractor to review the records. This would take the frontline staff away from their clinical work and prejudice our ability to provide core clinical services.

We have considered whether charging or extending the timeframe for responding to this aspect of your request would assist us in managing this work and have concluded it would not. We have, therefore, determined to refuse this element of your request under s. 18(f) of the Official Information Act due to substantial collation and research.

**3. Is there a local clinical treatment guideline for chronic migraine in the DHB and if so, please can this be provided**

Local migraine treatment pathways are available for health professionals on the Health Pathways website:

[Headaches in Adults - Community HealthPathways Auckland Region | Te rohe o Tāmaki Makaurau](#)

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](http://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 sincerely,



Ailsa Claire, OBE  
**Chief Executive**

