

29 October 2021

[REDACTED]

Response to a request for official information

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your request for official information as a transfer in full from the Ministry of Health, and received 9 September 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by the necessary extension of time 7 October 2021, where you seek the following information:

In relation to DHB Medical Day Stay Units or similar (non-oncology).

- 1. What is the Medical Day-Stay (non-oncology) infusion capacity where capacity is defined as the maximum number of infusions that can occur at any given time?**

Response:

We have four dedicated medical infusion spaces, with increased capacity depending on other planned care.

- 2. Average number of infusions per week?**

Response:

25.

- 3. Opening days & hours?**

Response:

Monday to Friday from 0700 - 2030hrs.

- 4. Which products are most commonly infused (top ten)?**

Response:

- Intravenous Line (IV) of Pharmacological agent – other;
- Transfusion of packed cells;
- Iron infusions;
- Transfusion of gamma globulin;
- Infusions – other;
- Transfusion of platelets;
- IV pharmac agent neoplastic;
- Subcut pharmacological agent – other;
- IV pharmac agent antidote.

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board

5. Does the DHB run satellite infusion services outside of its main hospitals? What locations?

Response:

Golden Bay Community Health provides limited infusion services for eligible people.

6. How often (percentage of total patients) is travel assistance (eg buses, shuttles, taxis, or monetary assistance) to attend infusions provided to patients? What are the monthly costs?

Response:

NMH does not collect this data and, as such, we decline a response under section 18(g) 'the information requested is not held'.

7. How often do patients not attend infusion appointments as scheduled?

Response:

The attendance rate for scheduled infusion appointments for 12 months from July 2020 was 98%.

8. Are scheduled IV infusions ever provided outside of the Medical Day Stay Unit?

Response:

No.

9. What is the average cost of an infusion on the Medical Day Stay vs General Medical Ward?

Response:

NMH does not have a costing system that enables us to provide the cost of an infusion and, as such, we decline a response under section 18(g) 'that the information requested is not held'.

10. Does method of administration (eg IV vs sub-cutaneous) pose a barrier to treatment due to capacity constraints?

Response:

No.

11. Is there a need for new medicines that are community or home-based as an alternative to infusions?

Response:

This has not been assessed.

12. Are infusion bookings ever delayed due to capacity constraints?

Response:

Most infusions are delivered to schedule.

13. What is the forecasted increase in infusion numbers over the next two years?

Response:

This has not been assessed.

14. Is the DHB planning to expand infusion capacity?

Response:

Not at this time.

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Yours sincerely



Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive