

03 September 2024

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Tēnā koe Peter

Your request for official information, reference: HNZ00060706

Thank you for your email on 14 August 2024, asking Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora for the following under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) regarding time to wait at North Shore Hospital for a heart stent operation:

1. *What is my expected wait time for North Shore Hospital to schedule my heart Stent procedure.?*
2. *How long from my scan to operation?*
3. *What is the longest time someone has had to wait (at North Shore Hospital for a heart stent operation.)*

Response

1. *What is my expected wait time for North Shore Hospital to schedule my heart Stent procedure.?*
2. *How long from my scan to operation?*

Health NZ's Privacy Team are responding to question 1 and 2 above under the Privacy Act 2020.

3. *What is the longest time someone has had to wait (at North Shore Hospital for a heart stent operation.)*

We are responding to question 3 under the Official Information Act.

Although we have reviewed the provisional data presented in our response, it has not undergone full quality assurance, and this data could have unexpected errors that may be picked up through the rigorous data quality checks publication datasets undergo.

Published data may differ from the provisional data presented here. Published data should be considered the most accurate source and used where possible.

We have reviewed the data over the past three years. The longest a patient had to wait for a heart stent procedure was 19 weeks.

Please refer to a breakdown of data for the last three financial years in **Table** overleaf for the number of 'IP Angioplasty' procedures carried out, the average wait time and the maximum waiting time in weeks.

Table: Last three financial years 2021/2022, 2022/2023 and 2023/2024 number of “IP Angioplasty” procedures done, and their average waiting time and maximum waiting time in weeks.

Financial year	Priority flag	Number of procedures	Average waiting weeks	MAX waiting weeks
2021/2022	1	16	2.3	6
	2	12	6.4	12
2022/2023	1	9	3.2	5
	2	13	5.5	15
	3	<5	13.0	13
2023/2024	1	7	2.0	4
	2	10	8.4	19
	3	<5	8.8	14

Note to avoid revealing sensitive information about potentially identifiable individuals in our data, all values between 1 and 5 are suppressed and represented as <5.

This information is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act as it is necessary to protect the privacy of individuals concerned. We do not believe there to be countervailing public interest considerations under section 9(1) for disclosure to outweigh the privacy interests of these people

Data on “Longest Wait” times: We note that your questions seek information on “longest wait” periods for individual patients. “Longest waits” for patients requiring Cardiology Stents can be influenced by a multitude of factors for individual patients. Consequently, while we have outlined 19 weeks as the longest waiting time over the past 3 years in our response, this data presented in itself, is not meaningful without patient-specific context and cannot necessarily be construed in any way that long wait times for individuals are due to capacity or service constraint.

Accordingly, the longest wait time apparent in the data cannot be considered a true reflection of actual waiting times that a person may have been left without having been offered an appointment but declined at their own request or deferred to another time better suited to their circumstances.

How to get in touch

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@Tewhātuora.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Health NZ may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Tamzin Brott

Acting Group Director Operations

Hospital and Specialist Services Waitematā