

17 January 2006

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Research Officer
Office of the Leader of the Opposition
Parliament Buildings
WELLINGTON

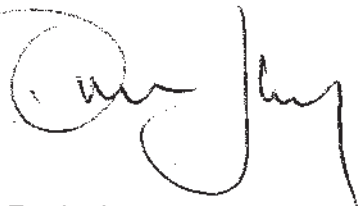
Re Official Information Act Request – Changes to the Financially Sustainable Threshold for Elective Procedures

Dear ██████████

I refer to your request dated 10 November 2005 for information about movements over the last five years in the financially sustainable threshold for elective procedures.

In practice, Auckland District Health Board does not apply a rigid priority threshold for elective procedures. Our actual performance by priority score is therefore a more useful guide to changes. Table 1 attached shows the mean, median, lowest and highest clinical priority score for patients treated each year, by specialty. This table demonstrates that for most specialties there has been a small increase over the years in the average and median priority score that they are treating. In other words, the patients treated from the waiting list are sicker now, on average, than they were five years ago.

Yours sincerely



Denis Jury
Acting Chief Executive Officer
Auckland District Health Board

Table 1: Mean, Median, Minimum and Maximum of Clinical Priority Access Criteria Scores assigned to Elective Surgery Patients treated during Financial Years 2001 - 2005 by Auckland District Health Board

Specialty	Year	CPAC Score			
		Mean	Median	Lowest	Highest
Cardiothoracic - Adults (Range: 1-100)	2001	33.5	40	1	99
	2002	32.3	39	1	95
	2003	37.1	41	1	100
	2004	38.7	44	1	100
	2005	46.5	50	1	100
Cardiothoracic - Paeds (Range: 6-1)	2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2003	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2004	3.7	4	6	1
	2005	3.8	4	6	1
Vascular Surgery (Range: 5-1)	2001	2.9	3	4	1
	2002	2.6	3	4	1
	2003	2.5	2	4	1
	2004	2.3	2	4	1
	2005	2.2	2	4	1
ENT/ORL Adults (Range: 1-100)	2001	44.0	40	2	100
	2002	43.2	40	30	100
	2003	46.0	40	30	100
	2004	47.2	44	28	100
	2005	58.8	50	8	100
ENT/ORL Paeds (Range: 1-100)	2001	76.0	75	40	100
	2002	80.2	80	40	100
	2003	77.2	75	40	100
	2004	77.1	75	40	100
	2005	78.3	85	40	100
Gastroenterology Paediatric (Range: 0-6)	2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2003	2.0	2	1	3
	2004	2.2	2	1	5
	2005	3.2	3	1	6
Neurosurgery - Adults (Range: 4-1)	2001	2.7	3	4	1
	2002	2.4	2	4	1
	2003	2.3	2	4	1
	2004	2.3	2	4	1
	2005	2.3	2	4	1
Neurosurgery - Paeds (Range: 4-1)	2001	2.4	2	4	1
	2002	2.5	2	4	1
	2003	2.5	2	4	1
	2004	2.4	2	4	1
	2005	2.5	2	4	1
Orthopaedics - Adults (Range: 1-100)	2001	75.4	80	10	100
	2002	75.5	79	15	100
	2003	77.2	80	18	100
	2004	77.8	80	20	100
	2005	81.2	85	18	100
Orthopaedics - Paeds (Range: 4-1)	2001	2	2	2	1
	2002	2	2	2	2
	2003	2	2	2	2
	2004	2	2	4	1
	2005	2	2	4	1
Respiratory Paeds (Range: 1-5)	2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2003	2.8	3	1	4
	2004	2.5	2	1	4
	2005	2.7	3	1	5

Specialty	Year	CPAC Score			
		Mean	Median	Lowest	Highest
Gen Surgery - Adults (Range: 1-100)	2001	77.5	81	10	100
	2002	83.8	86	10	100
	2003	86.1	90	14	100
	2004	87.0	90	10	100
	2005	87.9	90	30	100
General Surgery - Paeds (Range: 5-1)	2001	2.3	2	5	1
	2002	2.0	2	5	1
	2003	2.3	2	5	1
	2004	2.7	3	5	1
	2005	2.8	3	5	1
Ophthalmology (Range: 1:100)	2001	33.3	26	1	100
	2002	46.8	40	1	100
	2003	48.3	46	1	100
	2004	49.2	45	10	100
	2005	50.9	50	15	100
Oral Health Greenlane (Range: 1-9)	2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2003	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2004	3.4	3	2	9
	2005	4.5	4	1	9
Urology (Range: 6-1)	2001	1.8	2	6	1
	2002	1.6	1	6	1
	2003	1.7	1	6	1
	2004	1.6	1	6	1
	2005	1.7	1	6	1
Gynaecology Inpatients (Range: 1-100)	2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2003	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	2004	65.7	61	15	100
	2005	68.1	65	10	100

Note: the Clinical Priority Access Criteria score that is most commonly used has a range of values from 1 (very low priority) to 100 (very high priority). Within ADHB, a number of scoring systems are used. For each specialty, the range of possible values is shown, from lowest to highest score. Range: 1-100 means 1 is lowest, 100 is highest. Range: 6-1 means 6 is lowest (least urgent) score and 1 is highest (most urgent).