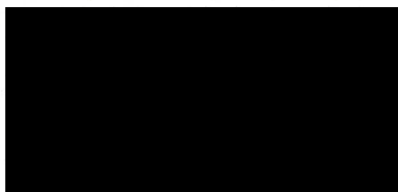




07 March 2022



Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request received on 14 February 2022 made under section 12 of the Official Information Act 1982. You have requested the following information:

As of Feb 14 how many people have been waiting longer than clinically recommended for radiation treatment?

The DHB monitors against the Radiation Oncology prioritisation guidelines which can be found on the National Service Framework Library website.

These recommendations are from ready to care, i.e. when there is nothing preventing the patient from commencing radiation therapy treatment e.g. wound healing post-surgery.

As of 14 February 2022 we have no patients waiting longer than clinically recommended without a valid reason as detailed below.

Factors preventing patients from starting radiation treatment are categorised into the following five areas:

1. **Clinical consideration** e.g. Post chemotherapy recovery (adverse reactions to medication / treatment), Post-operative complications, Cancer related complications, Intercurrent problems - co-morbidities
2. **Other Management** e.g. Awaiting further assessment or consultation, Awaiting further investigations, Awaiting other procedures i.e. dental intervention, Social support arrangements
3. **Patient Choice** e.g. Patient choice, Social considerations, Declines offer of treatment at alternative centre
4. **Capacity Constraints** e.g. Capacity constraints is the lack of capacity to provide radiation treatment planning and scheduled linear accelerator treatment spaces
5. **Extraordinary circumstances** e.g. Extraordinary and/or unforeseen circumstances prevent patients from starting their treatment on the booked start day and results in patients starting treatment at the next available time which may be outside the four week target. Unforeseen circumstances are not a capacity issue and are events that are outside the control of the Cancer Centre and the patient for example severe weather or a patient's car breaking-down.

As of 14 Feb 2022 there were 14 patients in this group, specifically:

1. Clinical Consideration – 6 patients
2. Other Management – 4 patients
3. Patient Choice – 4 patients
4. Capacity Constraints – 0 patients
5. Extraordinary circumstances – 0 patients

A review of these patients shows that they are on hold due to relevant mitigating factors, not due to capacity constraints.

Please do not hesitate to contact us again if you require any further information.

Yours sincerely



Christine Lowry
Executive Director – Hospital & Community Services
Waikato District Health Board