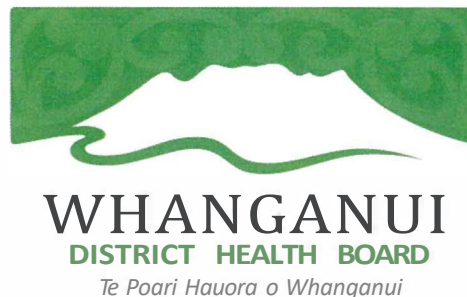


27 July 2021

Amanda Rose
Multiple Sclerosis NZ



Via email:

100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

Tena koe Amanda

Official Information Act Request - OIA 13601 Access to Services for People with Multiple Sclerosis (MS)

On 30 June 2021, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

Staffing Numbers

1. How many Neurologists do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)
2. How many Neurologists are Multiple Sclerosis Specialists on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)
3. How many Neurologists on your staff see patients with Multiple Sclerosis?
4. How many Neurology Nurses do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)
5. How many MS Nurse Specialists are on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)

Waiting Times

We request the information to relate to the period from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021

6. What is the current waiting time for a/an:
 - a) first specialist neurology outpatients' appointment?
 - b) follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment?
 - c) outpatient MRI?
 - d) outpatient infusion clinic appointment?

Whanganui District Health Boards response:

Staffing Numbers

1. **How many Neurologists do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**
2. **How many Neurologists are Multiple Sclerosis Specialists on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**
3. **How many Neurologists on your staff see patients with Multiple Sclerosis?**
4. **How many Neurology Nurses do you have on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**
5. **How many MS Nurse Specialists are on staff? (Numbers and FTE equivalent)**

The Whanganui District Health Board does not have any neurologists on staff.

Our medical team would be the first contact for patients with Multiple Sclerosis before being transferred to the neurology department at MidCentral District Health Board.

Waiting Times

We request the information to relate to the period from 1st July 2020 to 30th June 2021

6. **What is the current waiting time for a/an:**
 - a) **first specialist neurology outpatients' appointment?**
 - b) **follow up specialist neurology outpatient appointment?**

The Whanganui District Health Board does not have any neurologists on staff.

c) outpatient MRI?

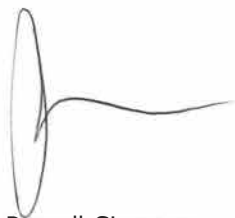
For a routine MRI waiting time is on average five months, MS screening would be considered routine. Semi urgent MRI waiting time is two weeks and urgent waiting time is 48 hours.

d) outpatient infusion clinic appointment?

The Whanganui District Health Board does not run outpatient infusion clinics.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Nga mihi

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, vertical oval shape on the left and a horizontal line extending to the right.

Russell Simpson
Chief Executive