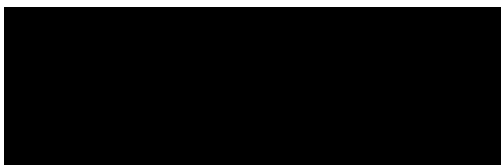


16 February 2022



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act

I am responding on behalf of Taranaki District Health Board (DHB) to your OIA request of 31 January 2022. You have requested the following information:

- *How many days, if any, did hospitals in Taranaki DHB spend in Code Red from January 01 2021 – December 31 – 2021*
- *How many days, if any, did hospitals in Taranaki DHB spend in Code Black from January 01 2021 – December 31 2021.*

Taranaki DHB does not operate a code black system. However we have a red, amber, and green graduated system.

A ward occupancy alert is triggered when the ward hits 100% or greater bed occupancy.

Most ward/unit patients numbers cannot exceed the standard number of beds. However some units can adapt to accommodate more patients and thus exceed 100% occupancy generating a unit red alert. An amber alert is when we hit 100% occupancy.

Definition of a hospital red occupancy alert is “3 or more units/ward have a red alert for occupancy”.

In the time frame requested Taranaki District Health Board experienced:

- 11 Red occupancy alerts in the time frame Jan-Dec 2021
- Average duration 8 hour duration
- Ranging from 38 hours to 30 mins.

You requested how many days in red alert, the answer is 1 day – 38 hours on 28/29 April 2021.

This is not a common problem for Taranaki DHB to face as we can move patients to other wards when one unit is fully occupied and we do not have physical capacity to increase the patient numbers in most wards.

Even at the lower amber occupancy alerts, there is minimal sustained period of amber alerts that would cross the 24 hour period. Our amber alerts resolve when our discharging occurs in late morning and early afternoon.

Continued...

I trust the above information answers your OIA request.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Campbell", followed by a period.

Gillian Campbell
Chief Operating Officer