

11 April 2022



Dear 

Re: Official Information Act

I am responding on behalf of Taranaki District Health Board (DHB) to your OIA request of 26 January 2022. Thank you for clarifying your request on 16 March 2022. You have requested the following information:

The number of people that have visited any/all hospitals and doctor's surgeries within the TDHB for an/all heart related issues, (including but not limited to pericarditis, myocarditis, heart attacks and strokes). The data requested is for the 11-month period from February 2021 until December 2021 inclusive, displayed in month by month format, and compared to the monthly data for the previous three years.

There were 5,514 presentations that were recorded with reasons for referral that were of cardiac nature for the period February to December 2021. This is only a relative indication and does not represent the clinical diagnosis at the end of treatment. Please note that Taranaki DHB is in the process of implementing the SNOMED diagnosis coding for ED events as per the Ministry of Health directive – this will provide accurate representation on cohort of illnesses that are treated in our emergency departments.

In comparison to the previous years, the end Q2 in 2021 saw a steady increase in visits as SNOMED presenting diagnosis codes were implemented, which resulted in a consistent capture of referral and diagnosis data. Table 1 (in the Appendix) shows the month by month (February to December) breakdown for the three-year period 2019, 2020 and 2021.

I trust the above information answers your OIA request.

Kind regards



Katy Sheffield
Chief Operating Officer (acting)

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Appendix

Table 1 – Count of ED Visits

Months	Years			Grand Total
	2019	2020	2021	
Feb	236	244	280	760
Mar	269	244	295	808
Apr	255	200	274	729
May	289	234	303	826
Jun	297	288	445	1030
Jul	340	308	554	1202
Aug	335	297	587	1219
Sep	277	270	672	1219
Oct	325	284	706	1315
Nov	278	276	705	1259
Dec	284	293	693	1270
Grand Total	3,185	2,938	5,514	11,637