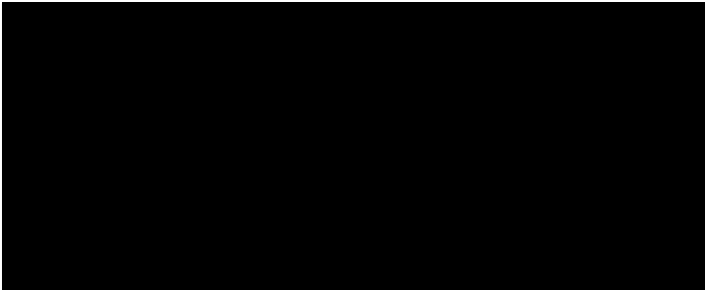


03 November 2020



Re: Official Information Request – Costs of Covid testing and hospitalisation

I refer to your official information request dated 22 September 2020 to the MoH. The MoH transferred part of your request to Auckland DHB on 6 October 2020. You requested the following information:

The current cost of individual treatment and hospitalization of COVID cases on the healthcare system.

The Northern Region District Health Boards (Northland, Waitematā, Auckland, and Counties Manukau DHBs) are operating a joint response to COVID-19 that includes a shared approach to hospital treatment of COVID-19 cases.

Because of the wide variety in the number and severity of confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases seen by our hospitals, we have provided a summary of costs for COVID-19 inpatients for the Counties Manukau District Health Board (CMDHB); these costs are indicative of all four Northern Region DHBs.

Since the first patient discharged 27/03/20, there have been 18 covid positive cases and 5 suspected cases at CMDHB.

Below are the average costs:

	Total	Average of total	Direct	Average of Direct	Average WIES
Costs for all cases in this group were	\$451,844	\$19,645	\$347,387	\$15,104	2.4
Costs for the confirmed positive cases were	\$417,237	\$23,180	\$321,977	\$17,888	1.0
Costs for the suspected cases were	\$34,607	\$6,921	\$25,410	\$5,082	2.1

These costs range between \$276,667 for a patient who stayed 34 days and \$290 for a patient with a very brief stay - under an hour. Given the small number of cases and their variety, it's difficult to give an 'average' price for these patients. In addition, some costs associated with COVID care are either not distributed to patients (e.g. Community Testing) or are distributed across all patients (e.g. PPE equipment costs and additional security).

COVID quarantine had a notable impact on costing, in that there was a marked downturn in attendances, particularly to ED and to elective surgery. This caused costs to increase across the board.

Please find below the cost, length of stay in days and hours for each Coronavirus positive or suspected patient. Note these patients span over two fiscal years - from the first patients discharged 27/03/20 to the most recent discharged 19/09/20.

Fiscal Year	Episode Number	Discharge Date	Diagnosis Code						Total Cost	Total LOS (days)	Total LOS (hrs)
			U071 (Coronavirus positive)			U072 (Coronavirus suspected)					
			Cost	LOS (days)	LOS (hrs)	Cost	LOS (days)	LOS (hrs)			
2020	1	08/03/2020	\$276,667.91	34	817.68			\$276,667.91	34	817.68	
2020	2	29/03/2020				\$13,324.79	12	278.99	\$13,324.79	12	278.99
2020	3	01/04/2020	\$5,761.00	2	60.28			\$5,761.00	2	60.28	
2020	4	22/04/2020	\$5,599.20	4	95.33			\$5,599.20	4	95.33	
2020	5	11/04/2020	\$5,356.71	4	96.08			\$5,356.71	4	96.08	
2020	6	06/04/2020	\$5,009.94	3	79.9			\$5,009.94	3	79.9	
2020	7	19/04/2020	\$4,095.71	3	69.58			\$4,095.71	3	69.58	
2020	8	02/04/2020				\$3,507.67	3	68.32	\$3,507.67	3	68.32
2020	9	02/04/2020	\$2,633.67	1	37.3			\$2,633.67	1	37.3	
2020	10	06/04/2020				\$2,471.67	1	31.3	\$2,471.67	1	31.3
2020	11	09/04/2020				\$2,235.49	1	29.42	\$2,235.49	1	29.42
2020	12	27/03/2020	\$1,350.58	0	4.27			\$1,350.58	0	4.27	
2020	13	28/04/2020	\$1,009.69	0	3.22			\$1,009.69	0	3.22	
2020	14	29/03/2020	\$289.96	0	0.26			\$289.96	0	0.26	
2021	15	01/09/2020	\$49,433.55	14	348.18			\$49,433.55	14	348.18	
2021	16	28/09/2020	\$39,388.01	10	230.28			\$39,388.01	10	230.28	
2021	17	30/06/2020				\$13,067.47	3	83.25	\$13,067.47	3	83.25
2021	18	15/08/2020	\$7,450.70	5	120.43			\$7,450.70	5	120.43	
2021	19	21/06/2020	\$4,653.97	3	80.42			\$4,653.97	3	80.42	
2021	20	15/06/2020	\$3,470.24	3	61.1			\$3,470.24	3	61.1	
2021	21	17/06/2020	\$2,054.70	1	23.3			\$2,054.70	1	23.3	
2021	22	20/07/2020	\$1,790.96	1	20.5			\$1,790.96	1	20.5	
2021	23	13/07/2020	\$1,269.19	0	6.33			\$1,269.19	0	6.33	
Grand Total			\$417,237.06	88	2154.48	\$54,607.16	20	486.22	\$451,844.12	108	2640.7

Stats	Cost	Length of Stay (Days)
Max	\$276,667	34
Min	\$290	0
Median	\$4,095	3

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ailsa Claire'.

Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive

