

30 NOV 2018



Ref: H201807357

Dear 

Response to your request for official information

I refer to your request of 2 November 2018 under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for:

1. *"How many iron deficiency anaemia diagnoses have been made from 2008 to date? Please break this down by year.*
2. *How much has iron deficiency anaemia treatment cost the Ministry of Health? Please break this down by year.*
3. *How many blood transfusions or iron infusions have been required for people with iron deficiency anaemia over the past 10 years?*

Please break this down by year."

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) holds data on hospitalisations and as not all diagnoses of iron deficiency anaemia result in hospitalisation the Ministry does not hold the information on the total number of iron deficiency anaemia diagnoses in New Zealand. As such this part one of your request is refused under section 18(g) of the Act, as the information requested is not held by the Ministry and I have no reason to believe that the information is held by another department or Minister of the Crown or organisation, or by a local authority.

Information in response to part two of your request is attached in Appendix One. Table One contains the cost to the Ministry of funding iron supplements. Please note that iron supplements are available without a prescription and the Ministry carries no records of those sales. Table Two contains the estimated total cost of publicly funded hospitalisations where iron deficient anaemia was the primary diagnosis. This does not include hospitalisations where iron deficiency or anaemia were secondary to another diagnosis.

Information in response to part three of your request is attached in Appendix Two. Table Three contains the count of publicly funded hospitalisations for iron deficiency anaemia where the patient received a blood transfusion. This data excludes hospitalisations with a diagnosis where iron deficiency or anaemia were secondary to another cause (such as another disease, or blood loss), or when the diagnosis was iron deficiency.

The data does not allow us to identify hospitalisations where the patients received an iron infusion.

Please note, we may publish this response (with your personal details removed) on our website.

I trust this information fulfils your request. You have the right, under section 28 of the Act, to ask the Ombudsman to review my decisions under this request.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ann-Marie Cavanagh', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ann-Marie Cavanagh
**Acting Deputy Director-General
Data and Digital**

Appendix One.

Table One

Estimated total cost of funding iron supplements

Cost to the MoH of funding iron supplements (TG3 13830 Iron)

Please note that iron supplements are available without a prescription and MoH carries no records of those sales

Source: MoH Pharms, Extracted 09/11/2018

| <u>Year</u> | <u>Total cost</u> |
|-------------|-------------------|
| 2008/09 | \$ 2,241,096 |
| 2009/10 | \$ 2,643,168 |
| 2010/11 | \$ 3,078,072 |
| 2011/12 | \$ 3,387,353 |
| 2012/13 | \$ 1,298,866 |
| 2013/14 | \$ 1,187,442 |
| 2014/15 | \$ 1,243,790 |
| 2015/16 | \$ 1,128,759 |
| 2016/17 | \$ 1,235,645 |
| 2017/18 | \$ 2,835,228 |

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Table Two

Estimated total cost of hospitalisations for iron deficiency anaemia

Estimated total cost of publicly funded hospitalisations where the primary diagnosis was D508 (Other iron deficiency anaemias) or D509 (Iron deficiency anaemia, unspecified), and the hospitalisation was included in the casemix. This data excludes hospitalisations with a diagnosis where iron deficiency or anaemia were secondary to another cause (such as another disease, or blood loss), or when the diagnosis was iron deficiency.

Uses the WEIS method - <https://www.health.govt.nz/nz-health-statistics/data-references/weighted-inlier-equivalent-separations?mega=Health%20statistics&title=Weighted%20Inlier%20Equivalent%20Separations>

Codes are ICD-10-2

Source: MoH NMDS, Extracted 09/11/2018

| Year | Estimated total cost |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| 2008/09 | \$3,224,366.59 |
| 2009/10 | \$3,629,934.50 |
| 2010/11 | \$3,977,013.41 |
| 2011/12 | \$4,759,427.35 |
| 2012/13 | \$4,932,321.24 |
| 2013/14 | \$5,000,699.50 |
| 2014/15 | \$6,265,588.76 |
| 2015/16 | \$6,147,304.83 |
| 2016/17 | \$6,389,842.64 |
| 2017/18 | \$6,736,507.52 |

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

Appendix Two.

Table Three

Count of hospitalisations for iron deficiency anaemia where the patient received a blood transfusion

Count of publicly funded hospitalisations where the primary diagnosis was D508 (Other iron deficiency anaemias) or D509 (Iron deficiency anaemia, unspecified)

AND the patient received a blood transfusion (procedure code of "9206000 Transfusion of previously collected autologous blood" or "1370601 Transfusion of whole blood")

This data excludes hospitalisations with a diagnosis where iron deficiency or anaemia were secondary to another cause (such as another disease, or blood loss), or when the diagnosis was iron deficiency All codes are ICD-10-2

Source: MoH NMDS, Extracted 09/11/2018

Year Count of hospitalisations

| | |
|-----------|---|
| 2008/2009 | 2 |
| 2009/2010 | 1 |
| 2010/2011 | 1 |
| 2011/2012 | 1 |
| 2012/2013 | 1 |
| 2013/2014 | 1 |
| 2014/2015 | 1 |
| 2015/2016 | 1 |
| 2016/2017 | 1 |
| 2017/2018 | 1 |

RELEASED UNDER THE OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT 1982

