



AUCKLAND DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Communications

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ADHB Media Release

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Improved Health Target Performance

Today's release of the third quarter Health Target results by the Ministry of Health shows Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) has improved significantly against some of the Government's key performance benchmarks.

CEO Garry Smith said the improvements demonstrated a 'step change' in service delivery was underway and the progress was the result of hard work and innovation by ADHB staff.

"We have shown good improvement against four of the indicators and held steady on the remaining two," Mr Smith said.

"This provides a solid base to launch a push during the final quarter to meet the targets by year's end.

"These improvements have ultimately been achieved by ADHB staff and I extend my sincere appreciation to all those who have contributed.

"I am optimistic we will show further progress and meet several of the targets by the end of the final quarter, which was always the aim.

"The early signs of further progress at the start of the final quarter are very encouraging."

Emergency Departments

ADHB showed a dramatic improvement from January-March against this indicator, requiring 95 per cent of patients to be admitted, discharged or transferred from emergency departments within six hours.

"Our performance average against this target was 88 per cent for the quarter, up from 78 per cent in the preceding quarter," Mr Smith said.

"But this averaging does not tell the full story of the improvements that are being delivered by our ED teams in both the adult hospital and Starship.

"In March, 94 per cent of our patients had an ED stay of less than six hours – just one per cent short of the target."

Elective Surgery

Mr Smith said there was also good news on ADHB's performance on the target for increasing the number of elective surgery patients receiving treatment.

In order to achieve the target, ADHB must deliver an extra 1724 elective surgery patients in 2010-11 over and above the 2009-10 health target.

"This is a very ambitious target indeed – an 18 per cent increase in a single year," Mr Smith said.

"Our third quarter result of 92 per cent was up from the reported 89 per cent in the second quarter.

I'm pleased to report that, as at the end of April, we had hit 96 per cent and we are on-track to meet the target by June 30."

Cancer

The Regional Cancer and Blood Service team continued its excellent record against this target, Mr Smith said.

Up until the end of December, the target required all patients needing radiation therapy (and are ready to start) to have this within six weeks of their first specialist appointment.

"The target shortened to four weeks from January 1 and it is fantastic to see the service maintaining its 100 per cent record despite the change," he said.

Immunisation

The third quarter saw a small improvement in performance against the immunisation target, resulting in ADHB sitting just below the national benchmark.

The result of 88 per cent was up one per cent from the last quarter.

The national target is for 90 per cent of two-year-olds to be fully-immunised by the end of the fourth quarter.

Smoking

The third quarter saw more improvement on providing better help for smokers to quit.

Nationally, the target is for 90 per cent of hospitalised smokers to be provided with advice and help to quit by the end of the final quarter.

ADHB's result of 72 per cent for the third quarter remains well below what is expected but is a good improvement on the 65 per cent second quarter result.

"That improvement resulted in the offer of help to an additional 240 in-patient smokers," Mr Smith said.

"It's heartening to hear current results are tracking around 80 per cent."

Diabetes and Cardiovascular Services

ADHB continued to maintain performance against this combined, cumulative target at 70 per cent.

In the third quarter, there was a further increase against the adult cardiovascular disease risk assessments target, with a result of 79.9 per cent against the 79 per cent target.

The diabetes management target of 84 per cent was not reached, with a 74 per cent overall result posted.

ADHB did, however, achieve the Diabetes Get Checked target of 57 per cent.

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