



AUCKLAND DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Communications

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ADHB Media Release

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More Work Required To Meet Health Targets

Today's release of national health target results for the second quarter of 2010-11 provides a call to action for all Auckland District Health Board (ADHB) staff, CEO Garry Smith said.

Mr Smith said major improvements were needed in ADHB's performance against the elective surgery and shorter stays in emergency departments targets.

"The importance of ADHB performing against the targets cannot be overstated and the fact that we are behind in two major target areas is of very real concern," he said.

"I know there is a great deal of work – much of it highly innovative – going on to lift our performance.

"The fact is we still have much more work to do. The success of that work will be critical."

Mr Smith said new systems and staff were already making a difference to ADHB's target performance that were not captured in the October-December, 2010 second quarter reporting period, creating optimism about better results in the third quarter.

Elective Surgery

ADHB's 89 per cent result was disappointing but a plan has been developed to meet the target.

In order to achieve the target, ADHB must achieve 11,149 discharges by the end of June - an 18 per cent increase on last year's elective surgery target.

"The new Greenlane surgical theatres will help us treat additional gynaecology, ophthalmology and urology patients while there will be increases to outsourcing," Mr Smith said.

Emergency Departments

The 78 per cent result (the target is to have 95 per cent of patients admitted, discharged or transferred from emergency departments within six hours) was better than it may seem.

Adult ED demands rose 12 per cent over the last year and the service saw more patients with increased efficiency and shorter length of stays.

Additional ED staff and streamlined systems are coming online now and improvements are flowing.

"A fortnight ago, we saw 96 per cent of our Adult ED patients handled within the target time – a tremendous result that inspires confidence," Mr Smith said.

"Since February 16, we have seen an average of 91 per cent of patients across the Adult and Children's ED in less than six hours."

Cancer

Mr Smith congratulated Regional Cancer and Blood Service staff on the quarter two result, seeing 100 per cent of people needing radiation therapy starting treatment within the agreed six-week timeline.

"The target waiting time was reduced to four weeks in January and the teams are now busy implementing the further improvements required to sustain performance to that target and enhance quality at the same time," he said.

Smoking

ADHB offered advice and help to quit smoking to 65 per cent of patients.

This is still a long way short of the 90 per cent target but a range of strategies are being put in place to lift the result.

Additional support and training is underway in the short-stay and high-volume services, which have been identified as having the greatest potential for lifting performance.

The news from January is better, with a result of 72 per cent.

Immunisation

The national target is for 90 per cent of two-year-olds to be fully-immunised by July.

Our second quarter result of 87 per cent shows we are very close to achieving the benchmark.

Diabetes and Cardiovascular Services

ADHB held steady at 70 per cent across this three-part target.

“We are working with primary care on initiatives to improve our diabetes performance, enhance recall systems and support better diabetes management,” Mr Smith said.

“We are also looking at ways we can better support our high-needs populations with long-term conditions through self-management initiatives.”

ENDS

For further information please contact Matt Rogers, External Communications Specialist 021 804 122