

### Oncology megavoltage radiation treatment waiting times as at 30 September 2002

The data below records the time between the first specialist assessment and the start of radiation treatment.

<b>Raw Number of Patients</b>	<b>Auckland</b>	<b>Waikato*</b>	<b>Mid Central</b>	<b>Wellington</b>	<b>Canterbury</b>	<b>Otago</b>	<b>NZ</b>
<i>Waited &lt; 4 weeks</i>	127	78	53	46	77	52	433
<i>Waited 4-6 weeks</i>	44	0	9	21	10	10	94
<i>Waited &gt; 6 weeks</i>	6	0	21	67	28	2	124
<i>Total number starting</i>	177	78	83	134	115	64	651
<i>Protocol Patients</i>	25	7	9	15	20	6	82
<b>Percentage of Patients</b>	<b>Auckland</b>	<b>Waikato*</b>	<b>Mid Central</b>	<b>Wellington</b>	<b>Canterbury</b>	<b>Otago</b>	
<i>% waited &lt; 4 weeks</i>	71.75	100.00	63.86	34.33	66.96	81.25	66.51
<i>% Waited 4-6 weeks</i>	24.86	0.00	10.84	15.67	8.70	15.63	14.44
<i>% Waited &gt; 6 weeks</i>	3.39	0.00	25.30	50.00	24.35	3.13	19.05
<b>Actual change in number of people waiting &gt; 4 weeks August-September</b>							
<i>Number Waited 4-6 weeks</i>	26.0	0.0	-11.0	10.0	4.0	2.0	31.0
<i>Number Waited &gt; 6 weeks</i>	5.0	0.0	-1.0	61.0	2.0	-1.0	66.0
<b>% Change in number of people waiting &gt; 4 weeks August-September</b>							
<i>% Waited 4-6 weeks</i>	144.4	0.0	-55.0	90.9	66.7	25.0	49.2
<i>% Waited &gt; 6 weeks</i>	500.0	0.0	-4.5	1016.7	7.7	-33.3	113.8

\*When interpreting this data please note that:

Waikato District Health Board decided in April 2001 that it was in the best interests of the clinical management and treatment of its cancer patients that patients had a shorter time between their first specialist assessment with an oncologist and the start of radiation treatment. The patient waits longer for the first specialist assessment than at other cancer treatment centres but this wait is balanced by a shorter wait between assessment and radiation treatment.

\*\*Protocol patients are those having chemo prior to Radiation.

### Oncology megavoltage radiation treatment waiting times as at 30 September 2002 (excluding protocol patients)

