

25 May 2011

Ref. No _____

Mr Murray Georgel
Chief Executive Officer
MidCentral District Health Board
PO Box 2056
Palmerston North Central
PALMERSTON NORTH 4440

Dear Murray

The quarter three health target results represent excellent performance. The February earthquake, and the national state of emergency had significant impacts on all DHBs, and it has been pleasing to see the way the sector has pulled together to support the people and health services in Christchurch. I wish to thank you for your DHB's contribution and continued focus on health targets and to acknowledge in particular Canterbury DHB's commendable target performance during this difficult time.

National results

As we've discussed, delivery of the health targets is a sector priority, nationally quarter three health target results show performance improvement across all of the health target areas.

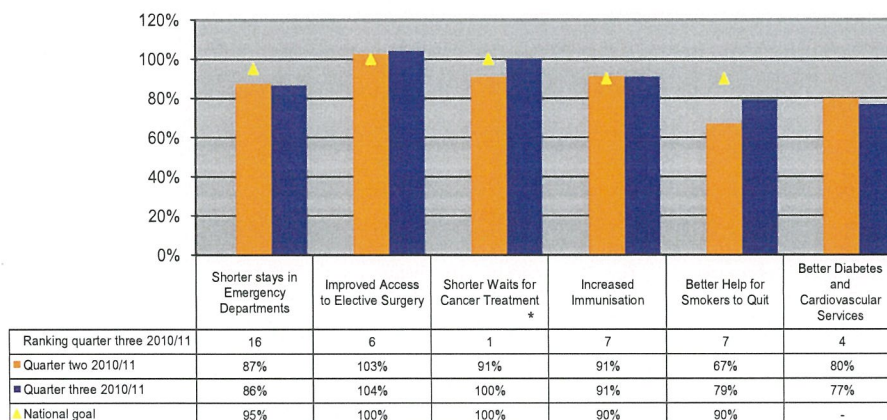
Overall it is pleasing to see strong performance against the new more stretching four week shorter waits for cancer treatment target.

Although a number of DHBs are taking positive action, I am concerned that as a sector we have not made adequate progress in delivery of the better diabetes and cardiovascular services target. The Ministry will contact you in the next two weeks to discuss the impact of the local actions you are taking to improve delivery against this target.

DHB Specific Progress

There continues to be variation at an individual DHB level. In relation to your own DHB, the following table displays your progress for each target compared against national goals.

MidCentral health targets quarter three 2010/11 results



* Change from previous quarter has been calculated using quarter two four-weeks waiting times

Below is Target Champion feedback and advice about your performance against each of the targets:

Mike Ardagh, Target Champion, Shorter stays in Emergency Departments

MidCentral DHB's performance deteriorated for the first time this quarter and I am concerned about your ability to achieve further progress towards the 95 percent target. As noted during my teleconference with the DHB on 14 April 2011, senior DHB leadership appears needed to ensure that the necessary actions are taken and that there is whole of system engagement. I will be in contact with MidCentral DHB over the next quarter to follow up on these concerns.

Clare Perry, Target Champion, Improved access to elective surgery

MidCentral DHB has achieved its quarter three health target – improved access to elective surgery, providing 4479 people with elective surgery. This is a good result, and is 180 (4 percent) more than planned. I also appreciate your commitment to assist in reaching the 2010/11 national target through taking on an additional 120 surgical discharges in quarter four (following the Christchurch earthquake).

John Childs, Target Champion, Shorter waits for cancer treatment

MidCentral DHB has achieved the four week shorter waits for cancer treatment health target in quarter three. This is excellent performance against the new target which came into effect in January 2011, and an improvement against the informally reported performance against the four week target during quarter two. The challenge is to sustain this performance during 2011.

Pat Tuohy, Target Champion, Increased immunisation

MidCentral DHB and the local immunisation service providers are commended for continuing to achieve above the 2010/11 target. It is excellent to see the high coverage rates for Maori and Pacific and the systems implemented to ensure infants are recalled in a timely manner. The Ministry suggests the board review the records of those registered as declined and engage with other DHBs like Hawke's Bay to learn about their processes to review their decline population.

In quarter three 4.0 percent of all children turning two years of age were not fully immunised (excludes those registered as opt off and decline).

Karen Evison, Acting Target Champion, Better help for smokers to quit

Well done on making significant progress this quarter, with results of 79 percent. The monthly results show that good progress is being made month on month, and that the DHB is currently achieving above 80 percent.

Brandon Orr-Walker, Target Champion, Better diabetes and cardiovascular services

MidCentral DHB's performance against the better diabetes and cardiovascular services health target has declined this quarter and the DHB is now ranked fourth. Your CVD risk assessment remains above target while diabetes management is below target although similar to previous quarters. There has been a considerable deterioration in diabetes free annual checks this quarter which is most disappointing. You note in your report that this will improve next quarter as referrals increase. Your report also includes some encouraging workforce initiatives such as involving Maori providers in the Diabetes Management Group, and further diabetes training for practice nurses. I expect to see an improvement in the diabetes targets next quarter.

Communication

As previously advised, the Ministry will publish quarter three results in five national newspapers, the New Zealand Herald, Waikato Times, The Dominion Post, The Christchurch Press, and the Otago Daily Times on Thursday 26 May 2011.

As occurs each quarter, a wider package of supporting information has been sent to DHB General Managers Planning and Funding and to Communication Managers, and the Ministry's website will provide more detailed information in each target area.

During this quarter a series of health target booklets have been developed to share professional learnings across each health target area. A copy of each of six booklets is available on the health targets website www.moh.govt.nz/healthtargets.

Once again I thank you, in anticipation, for your contribution to our collective efforts to improve the health system's delivery to New Zealanders.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Bridgman
Acting Director-General of Health

cc: Mr Phil Sunderland, MidCentral District Health Board