

Aide-Mémoire

Health New Zealand
Te Whatu Ora

Elective Boost: Private Provider Outsource pipeline to 30 June 2025

Sent to MO:	2 May 2025	Reference	HNZ00086454
To:	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
From:	Cath Cronin, Deputy Chief Executive Te Manawa Taki, Health NZ		
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Contact for further discussion (if required)			
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Rachel Haggerty	Director – Funding Hospitals, PFO	s 9(2)(a)	

Purpose

1. This Aide-Mémoire provides you with information about the private provider pipeline of work that is supporting the Elective Boost to achieve our target of 10,579 additional elective procedures by 30 June 2025.

Background

2. This Aide-Mémoire replaces all previous data and will provide the baseline from 20 April to 30 June.
3. You requested information on the private provider pipeline of work in support of the Elective Boost and achieving 10,579 additional elective procedures (Tranche 1) to reduce surgical waitlists (HNZ00079260).
4. As previously discussed, after assessing the feasibility with the private sector, our approach to the additional elective procedures through outsourcing was phased across three time- and volume-bound tranches: March to June 2025, July to August 2025, and September 2025 to June 2026.
5. You sought additional information on the number of patients referred, awaiting surgical dates, the number of patients scheduled for surgical procedures and how many procedure have been completed to meet the additional 10,579 procedures.
6. Health NZ is rapidly building a digital system to capture patient-specific data on the referrals pipeline with the private sector. This is critical to building longer-term agreements with the sector. Currently, this information is managed in spreadsheets across the 27 major hospitals in our districts.

Regional supply pipeline information

7. To provide this advice, Health NZ has manually collated, and verified with regions, data on the regional supply pipeline for patients who remain in the referral pipeline as they have yet to receive treatment. This is the most accurate and validated analysis of referrals to date.
8. The referrals issued to the private sector to support the elective boost are 9,538 as at 20 April 2025. As at 5 April the treatments delivered were 4,384¹.
9. This includes all patients referred to the private hospital, those who have been booked (accepted with a procedure date), those who are accepted and not booked (accepted, no procedure date), and those who have not yet been accepted. Currently, only Te Manawa Taki collates specific information on patients declined by the private sector. Please note, this operational data is a subset of the weekly report on 'Referrals for Private Treatment.' It excludes all patients who have been treated, decline, or removed for other reasons.
10. Health NZ acknowledges that the current manual collation of information is insufficient to meet the current critical need to understand the public / private patient transfer pipeline. The implementation of the digital system is commencing the week of 3 May 2025. This includes the manual data entry of the patients currently in the pipeline to bring the system up to date.

¹ Weekly Report week ending 13 April 2025

Analysis of patient referrals

11. As at 19 April, there are 5,226 patients who remain in the pipeline for treatment prior to 30 June 2025. These patients are across all private providers and all specialties referred for treatment prior to 30 June 2025.
12. Of those remaining in the pipeline 1,813 patients (34%) have been accepted but do not yet have a procedure date.
13. A further 1,441 (28%) have not yet been accepted by private providers to date. These are being followed up for a date by the public regional leads. Specifically:
 - a. Te Manawa Taki is working with Southern Cross Hamilton to confirm treatment dates.
 - b. Central is working with Kaweka Hospital (Hawke's Bay) and Evolution Healthcare.
 - c. Te Waipounamu is working with Southern Cross Hospitals.

Table 1: Current referrals in system with private providers to support the Elective Boost volumes

	Northern	Te Manawa Taki	Central	Te Waipounamu	Total
Referrals in system as at 19 April 2025 with patient file transfer	1,265	1,491	1,273	1,197	5,226
Accepted with procedure date prior to 30/06/25	1,116	425	203	228	1,972
Accepted with no procedure date		743	1,070		1,813
Not yet accepted by the provider	149	323		969	1,441

14. In addition, to boost delivery the Northern Region has implemented a rapid recovery plan to ensure additional work can be completed by 30 June 2025. They have worked with private hospitals and identified capacity for 1,600 additional elective procedures (not included in the table above) between now and 30 June 2025. These additional procedures include Ophthalmology, Orthopaedics and Otorhinolaryngology. All relevant providers are included in procuring these volumes.

Partnering with the Private Hospital Sector

15. Health NZ has directly engaged with the private hospital sector with national, regional and district forums supporting the increase in the volume of work moving to the private sector.
16. The development of an Elective Surgery Advisory Committee is under discussion between Health NZ and representatives of the private hospital sector. It is intended that the New Zealand Orthopaedic Association and Royal College of Surgeons will be invited to join phase two of this work.
17. The establishment of this Committee will support a long-term collaborative partnership between public and private healthcare providers to enable the government to achieve public elective surgical targets and enhance the sustainability of the NZ health system.

Next steps

18. Health NZ will continue to work closely with private hospitals to ensure patients are booked for the treatments to be completed by 30 June 2025 and meet the target of 10,579 treatments.
19. The digital application referenced above will be completed and populated to provide timely information on the flow of patients between the public and private hospitals.
20. The development of the Elective Surgery Advisory Committee to build collaboration between Health NZ and representatives of the private hospital sector is a priority for May.