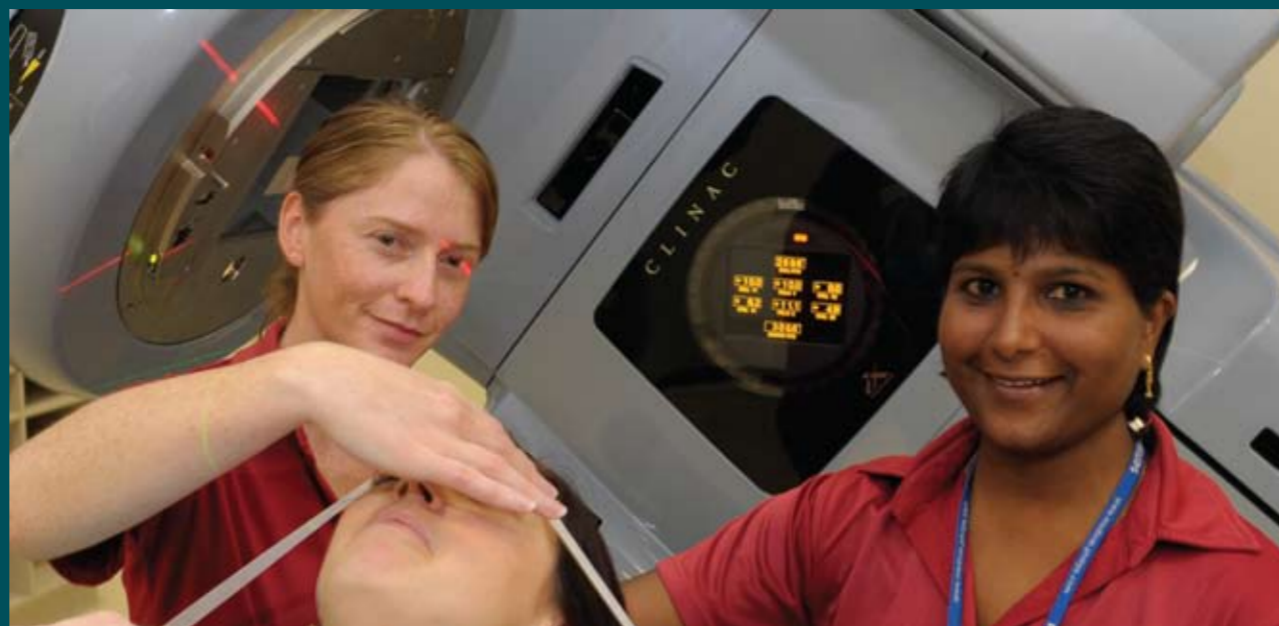


# Our journey continues, the improvement goes on.



The Minister of Health, and therefore the health sector, focuses on two things: financial performance and the six health targets. The comparative results for quarter three (the three months ended 31 March 2010) are below.

My comments on each target are shaded in blue.

Waikato DHB improved in all areas but overall it ranks about the same, which reinforces the old adage, that if you are not improving you are going backward.

The Minister requires DHBs to meet the targets by 30 June 2010. I thank staff for their efforts to date and ask that you continue your good work, particularly on the smoking indicator where it is the actions of individual health professionals that makes all the difference.

We can get there.

- Craig Climo, Chief Executive, Waikato DHB - 19 May 2010

## Quarter 3 Health Targets



**Shorter stays in**

**Emergency Departments**

Rank	Region	Quarter 3 Performance	Change from previous quarter
1	West Coast	100%	▲
2	Wairarapa	98%	▲
3	Nelson Marlborough	98%	▲
4	South Canterbury	96%	▲
5	Counties Manukau	95%	▲
6	Whanganui	95%	▼
7	Tairāwhiti	95%	▼
8	Taranaki	94%	▼
9	Canterbury	91%	▲
10	Hawke's Bay	89%	▲
11	Hutt Valley	88%	▲
12	Bay of Plenty	87%	▲
13	Lakes	87%	▲
14	Northland	86%	▲
15	Southland	84%	▲
16	Waikato	81%	▲
17	Capital & Coast	81%	▲
18	MidCentral	80%	▲
19	Auckland	80%	▲
20	Otago	78%	▲
21	Waitemata	74%	▲

### Shorter stays in Emergency Departments

The target is 95 percent of patients will be admitted, discharged, or transferred from an Emergency Department (ED) within six hours. The target is a measure of the efficiency of flow of acute (urgent) patients through public hospitals, and home again. To achieve this target with good, sustainable improvements is expected to take up to two years for many hospitals.

The third quarter showed only a modest improvement from 79 per cent to 81 per cent, but the last month's result was 85 per cent. It shows that we continue to make solid progress and at a time when the number of ED attendances is setting record highs. The ED result reflects whole of system performance, not just ED, and an area that is holding back overall performance is other specialties attending patients in ED.

I'm pleased to see our continued improvements, if small in some areas of the targets. However ED performance has to be measured against increasing presentations to the department over the period, which makes achieving the target just that bit harder!

Congratulations to all the areas for their ongoing focus, we can and will continue to improve.

Jan Adams, Chief Operating Officer, Health Waikato

**Improved access to**

**Elective Surgery**

Rank	Region	Quarter 3 Performance	Change from previous quarter
1	Northland	111%	▲
2	Waitemata	110%	▲
3	Southland	110%	▲
4	Canterbury	109%	▲
5	Waikato	109%	▲
6	Counties Manukau	107%	▲
7	Auckland	106%	▲
8	Nelson Marlborough	106%	▼
9	Whanganui	104%	▲
10	Lakes	104%	▲
11	Hutt Valley	103%	▲
12	West Coast	101%	▲
13	Bay of Plenty	100%	▲
14	Otago	98%	▲
15	Taranaki	98%	▲
16	Capital & Coast	97%	▼
17	MidCentral	97%	▼
18	Hawke's Bay	96%	▲
19	South Canterbury	96%	▼
20	Hutt Valley	95%	▲
21	Tairāwhiti	91%	▲

### Improved access to elective surgery

The target is an increase in the volume of elective surgery by an average of 4000 discharges per year.

It's great to be able to say that as expected we continue to perform well on this indicator. The objective is to achieve 100 per cent of our planned elective volumes and we are ahead of that.

Increasing elective surgery continues to be a major success story for Waikato DHB.

We continue to perform ahead of plan with some specialties requiring tighter oversight to ensure they meet all requirements. We continue to focus on the areas needing to improve and on standardising our systems and processes around elective services management.

Dr Grant Howard, Group Manager, Waikato Hospital

In the period July 2009 to March 2010, DHBs have delivered 104 percent of the planned national target for the period. 101,164 elective surgical discharges have been delivered, which is 3913 discharges more than planned, and 6246 discharges (6.6 percent) more than delivered in the same period in 2008/09.

[www.waikatodhb.govt.nz/healthtargets](http://www.waikatodhb.govt.nz/healthtargets)

**Shorter waits for**

**Cancer Treatment Radiotherapy**

Rank	Region	Quarter 3 Performance	Change from previous quarter
1	Waikato	100%	▲
1	Lakes	100%	▲
1	Bay of Plenty	100%	▲
1	Tairāwhiti	100%	▲
1	Hawke's Bay	100%	▲
1	Taranaki	100%	▲
1	MidCentral	100%	▲
1	Whanganui	100%	▲
1	Capital & Coast	100%	▲
1	Wairarapa	100%	▲
1	Wairarapa	100%	▲
12	Otago	99%	▼
13	Hutt Valley	99%	▼
14	Canterbury	97%	▲
15	Southland	96%	▼
16	South Canterbury	96%	▼
17	Northland	94%	▼
18	Counties Manukau	92%	▲
19	Waitemata	92%	▲
20	Nelson Marlborough	91%	▼
21	Auckland	90%	▼

### Shorter waits for cancer treatment radiotherapy

The target is everyone needing radiation treatment will have this within six weeks of their first specialist assessment by the end of July 2010 and within four weeks by December 2010. Six regional oncology centres provide radiation oncology services. These centres are in Auckland, Hamilton, Palmerston North, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

This is another outstanding story. Waikato DHB radiotherapy services provide the best access in New Zealand.

The service is not only meeting the 100 per cent target at six weeks but is achieving 100 per cent at four weeks. The four week national target does not start until December 2010.

We want to treat people as we would want to be treated ourselves. Cancer is such a stressful diagnosis. Timely therapy reduces the stress, gives the patient a focus, and a plan that leads to a better treatment experience.

I think the treatment of cancer is foremost in most New Zealanders' minds. High quality timely treatment is what they want. You can put off smoking for another day perhaps but I don't think you'll put off your cancer treatment.

Dr Leanne Tyrrie, Clinical Director

**Increased**

**Immunisation**

Rank	Region	Quarter 3 Performance	Change from previous quarter
1	Otago	94%	▲
2	Southland	93%	▲
3	Wairarapa	92%	▲
4	South Canterbury	91%	▲
5	Hawke's Bay	90%	▼
6	Capital & Coast	89%	▲
7	Canterbury	89%	▲
8	Whanganui	88%	▲
9	MidCentral	88%	▲
10	Hutt Valley	87%	▲
11	Waitemata	87%	▲
12	Nelson Marlborough	86%	▲
13	Taranaki	86%	▲
14	Auckland	85%	▲
15	Waikato	84%	▲
16	West Coast	84%	▲
17	Counties Manukau	84%	▲
18	Tairāwhiti	82%	▲
19	Lakes	78%	▲
20	Bay of Plenty	76%	▲
21	Northland	72%	▼

### Increased immunisation

The national immunisation target is for 85 percent of two-year olds\* to be fully immunised by July 2010; 90 percent by July 2011; and 95 percent by July 2012.

\* This quarterly progress result includes children who turned two years between January and March 2010 and who were fully immunised at that stage.

The 84 per cent result is very good and a solid improvement on the 80 per cent for the previous quarter. It is even better when viewed against some years of the results being hard to move.

The turn around is due to new hospital based activity (opportunistic screening) and identifying and targeting hard to reach families, and particularly the efforts of primary care.

**mobile immunisation service**  
love them • protect them • immunise them

Primary care staff are more aware and are taking a proactive approach with the immunisation schedule. The ability to work collaboratively with both outreach services and the National Immunisation Register has enabled primary care workers to ensure all children and their families are offered immunisation opportunities.

John Macaskill-Smith, Pinnacle chief executive

**Better help for**

**Smokers to Quit**

Rank	Region	Quarter 3 Performance	Change from previous quarter
1	Wairarapa	87%	▲
2	West Coast	74%	▲
3	Hawke's Bay	57%	▲
4	Hutt Valley	52%	▲
5	MidCentral	48%	▲
6	Nelson Marlborough	47%	▲
7	Waikato	47%	▲
8	Lakes	46%	▲
9	Southland	46%	▲
10	Whanganui	43%	▲
11	Tairāwhiti	43%	▲
12	Canterbury	43%	▲
13	South Canterbury	38%	▲
14	Otago	38%	▲
15	Northland	36%	▲
16	Waitemata	34%	▲
17	Capital & Coast	34%	▲
18	Counties Manukau	31%	▲
19	Auckland	25%	▲
20	Taranaki	19%	▲
21	Bay of Plenty	17%	▲

### Better help for smokers to quit

The target is that 80 percent of hospitalised smokers will be provided with advice and help to quit by July 2010; 90 percent by July 2011; and 95 percent by July 2012. The data covers patients presenting to Emergency Departments, day stay and other hospital based interventions.

Although the result has improved from 40 per cent to 47 per cent between the two quarters, and improved further with last month's result being almost 50 per cent, this result is the frustrating one.

Whereas the other indicators have various systems complexities that bear on them, the smoking target is simply about hospital health professionals asking if the person smokes and offering help. It is quick and easily recorded.

Patients (and their families) are strongly influenced by health professionals and are at their most amenable to lifestyle change when dealing with health issues. We can play a major part in helping the public with what is the single biggest health related lifestyle decision they will make.

Within that result, some areas are doing very well and I thank them.

**Better**

**Diabetes and Cardiovascular Services**

Rank	Region	Quarter 3 Performance	Change from previous quarter
1	Wairarapa	76%	▲
2	Taranaki	75%	▼
3	MidCentral	74%	▲
4	West Coast	74%	▲
5	Hutt Valley	72%	▲
6	Counties Manukau	72%	▼
7	Hawke's Bay	70%	▲
8	Whanganui	70%	▲
9	Capital & Coast	70%	▲
10	Southland	69%	▲
11	South Canterbury	69%	▲
12	Otago	69%	▲
13	Waikato	68%	▲
14	Northland	67%	▲
15	Waitemata	67%	▲
16	Lakes	67%	▲
17	Tairāwhiti	66%	▼
18	Nelson Marlborough	66%	▲
19	Auckland	64%	▲
20	Canterbury	63%	▲
21	Bay of Plenty	63%	▲

### Better diabetes and cardiovascular services

This graph represents the average progress made by a DHB towards three target indicators: (a) an increased percent of the eligible adult population will have had their cardiovascular disease risk assessed in the last five years; (b) an increased percent of people with diabetes will attend free annual checks; (c) an increased percent of people with diabetes will have satisfactory or better diabetes management.

This indicator is a lot less clear in what it means than the others. It is a composite of three activities. But that should not diminish the importance given to it. This indicator is basically about better management of the very serious issue of chronic conditions. It is largely done in the primary sector. The result between the two quarters improved from 66 per cent to 68 per cent. It looks modest but is a pleasing result, when at the same time the number of patients identified with these diseases has increased significantly. This is due to the sector doing a better job of identification.

