



**ADHB Media Release
November 30, 2011**

ADHB releases its first quarter Health Targets

The first quarter national Health Target results were released by the Ministry of Health yesterday. ADHB met the target in the areas of cancer treatment and elective surgery.

CEO Garry Smith said ADHB would need to make strong progress throughout the year to deliver on the Government's key performance benchmarks by year's end.

"We had a good run for the 2010-11 national Health Targets. The Ministry has set ambitious targets this year and I know they will stretch us to our full capability.

"I am confident that our committed staff will do their utmost to continue to lift our performance and act upon the changes that will ultimately benefit our patients."

Elective Surgery

Mr Smith said he was particularly pleased with ADHB's performance on the target for increasing the number of elective surgery patients receiving treatment.

ADHB had exceeded the target with 3,078 elective surgery patients treated, which marks a significant 22% increase over the same time a year ago.

"This is great news for the ADHB population and has largely been achieved with the introduction of new surgical theatres at the Greenlane Surgical Unit, amongst other improvements," Mr Smith said.

Radiation

The Regional Cancer and Blood Service continued its excellent record and once again met the target, ensuring that patients requiring radiation treatment are seen within four weeks of their specialist appointment. This target has been consistently met since the four week wait time became effective in December 2010.

“The success of these radiation results comes from a committed team introducing process improvements to reduce planning and treatment times, the introduction of new techniques and technology as well as capital investment,” he said.

Immunisation

ADHB has 91% of its toddler population immunised as at 30 September 2011.

Mr Smith said he was optimistic ADHB would reach the new target that has been set for 95% of two-year olds to be fully immunised by July 2012.

“Activities to increase the immunisation rate within our population include targeting outreach services particularly for under-immunised Maori children, contacting families who have declined immunisation, and working closely with other sectors as well as within health to help raise awareness about the importance of immunising children.”

Emergency Departments

In quarter one, 92% of patients had an Emergency Department (ED) stay of less than six hours. The Government target requires 95% of patients to be admitted, discharged or transferred from ED within six hours.

“We narrowly missed the target due to seasonal illness and greater numbers of admissions over the winter months, however I’m pleased to say that in quarter two as winter recedes, we are tracking back at 95%, even with record numbers being treated during the Rugby World Cup 2011.”

Diabetes and Cardiovascular Services

ADHB reached a combined outcome for diabetes and cardiovascular services of 72%, showing a 3% improvement on the last quarter.

Mr Smith said that providing better diabetes and cardiovascular services remained a challenge for the ADHB. “However, our performance continues to improve and we’re bolstering our knowledge and developing best practice procedures to assist in improving these services.”

Smoking

Meeting performance targets for providing better help for smokers to quit has proved challenging in the first quarter, with ADHB providing 81% percent of smokers advice and help to quit, up from 79% last quarter.

“While we haven’t managed to give 95% of identified smokers advice on how to quit smoking in line with the new national target, we’re making significant progress in this area. More help is now available with the introduction of a ‘Quit Now’ display at Auckland City Hospital, which gives visitors, patients and staff advice on how to quit, including how to access subsidised Nicotine Replacement Therapy.”

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For further information, please contact Annabel Scaife, Communications Advisor, 021 307 514.