

## ESTIMATES AND FINANCIAL OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

### ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

#### Department of Health

#### Hon Alanna Clohesy MLC asked:

1) How many new spinal cord injuries are treated in WA each year, broken down by:

a) Traumatic / non traumatic?

Answer: All spinal cord injuries are considered traumatic. In 2015/16, 113 persons were treated in the WA public hospital system for the initial phase of spinal cord injury.

b) Level of injury?

Answer: The level of injury has been interpreted to mean the functional level of the spinal cord injury, which is equivalent to the lowest intact spinal segment.

- C1 to C7 refer to the spinal segments in the cervical region of the vertebral column;
- T1 to T12 refer to the spinal segments in the thoracic region of the vertebral column; and
- L1 to L5 refer to the spinal segments in the lumbar region of the vertebral column.

Level of Functional Spinal Cord Injury	Persons admitted in 2015/16
<b>Cervical</b>	
Level unspecified	32
C1	< 5*
C2	< 5*
C3	7
C4	8
C5	13
C6	< 5*
C7	< 5*
<b>Thoracic</b>	
Level unspecified	10
T1	< 5*

T2/T3	< 5*
T4/T5	5
T6/T7	< 5*
T8/T9	< 5*
T10/T11	< 5*
T12	< 5*
<b>Lumbar</b>	
Level unspecified	10
L1	< 5*
L2	< 5*
L3	< 5*
L4	< 5*
L5	< 5*
<b>All</b>	113

\*Counts less than five have been suppressed to protect patient confidentiality.

- 2) How long do people stay in hospital (individual, de-identified data preferred, but if not then the total bed nights for this cohort and /or averages)?

Answer: The number of separations and average length of stay for treatment of the 113 initial phase spinal cord injuries in 2015/16, by functional level of injury:

Level of Functional Spinal Cord Injury	2015/16	
	Number of Separations	Average Length of Stay (days) per separation
<b>Cervical</b>		
Level unspecified	48	14.6
C1	< 5*	5.7
C2	< 5*	27.0
C3	12	27.1
C4	18	34.5
C5	31	25.8
C6	9	16.8
C7	< 5*	13.0
<b>Thoracic</b>		
Level unspecified	19	20.5
T1	< 5*	18.0
T2/T3	< 5*	26.5
T4/T5	7	36.1
T6/T7	9	44.8
T8/T9	< 5*	35.7
T10/T11	8	34.0
T12	< 5*	19.0
<b>Lumbar</b>		

Level unspecified	14	13.4
L1	< 5*	34.0
L2	< 5*	12.7
L3	< 5*	46.3
L4	< 5*	65.0
L5	< 5*	2.5
<b>All</b>	<b>211</b>	<b>24.1</b>

\*Counts less than five have been suppressed to protect patient confidentiality.

- 3) What is the cost per night for such a person, with any variations (if any) for different types / levels of injury?

Answer: The estimated cost per night for inpatient separations for the initial phase of treatment, by level of injury, is outlined in the table below.

The cost per night is an estimate based on the 2015/16 WA weighted activity unit price for that patient group after weighting each episode based on its individual case-mix and adjusting for its length of stay.

<b>Level of Functional Spinal Cord Injury</b>	<b>2015/16 Estimated cost per night (\$)</b>
<b>Cervical</b>	
Level unspecified	3,875
C1	6,795
C2	2,145
C3	2,113
C4	2,416
C5	2,219
C6	1,570
C7	4,556
<b>Thoracic</b>	
Level unspecified	2,985
T1	6,352
T2/T3	1,627
T4/T5	2,446
T6/T7	1,912
T8/T9	1,187
T10/T11	1,344
T12	3,829
<b>Lumbar</b>	
Level unspecified	2,131
L1	1,231
L2	3,212
L3	2,611

L4	1,354
L5	5,810

- 4) How long can a person be away from hospital during rehab, before losing their hospital bed?

Answer: There is no policy specifying the duration of leave for patients undertaking activities external to the hospital environment.

A legitimate part of a patient's rehabilitation program involves re-integration into the community through participation in functional or environmental assessments, discharge planning and/or recreational activities external to the hospital environment.

It is recognised that these activities may vary in duration, and periods of leave are managed according to patient and clinical needs, in consultation between patients, carers and clinicians.

- 5) How many people with SCI who are from outside Perth (ie: not new injuries, but people needing other medical assistance) are admitted per year, and how long do they stay in total /on average?

Answer: In 2015/16, 25 people who live outside the Perth metropolitan area were treated in the WA public hospital system in relation to an existing spinal cord injury.

For this cohort, the number of inpatient separations and associated length of stay in 2015/16 were as follows:

<b>Separations</b>	<b>Total Length of Stay (days)</b>	<b>Average Length of Stay (days)</b>
46	917	19.9

Note: "Not new injuries" has been interpreted to mean the subsequent phase (chronic) of spinal cord injury. "Outside Perth" has been interpreted to mean patients who do not reside within the Perth metropolitan area, and may include patients who do not live in WA.

- 6) How many outpatient visits are there by people with SCI who live outside Perth per year?

Answer: I am advised by the Health Service Providers that it is not possible to identify the clinics where non-admitted patients are treated for spinal cord injuries. Therefore we are unable to provide the number of outpatient visits by people who live outside Perth.

Outpatient clinic data is collected according to clinical specialty, rather than diagnosis or injury. Diagnosis is not included in the Non Admitted Patient and Wait List Data Collection, which is held by the Department of Health.