SERVICE DESCRIPTION

Women’s Health
Auckland  New Zealand

Women’s Health Service is the largest provider of Women’s Health Services in Australasia. It provides national and regional services, as well as primary, secondary and tertiary maternity and gynecological services to women.

National maternity services (known as the National Women’s Hospital) include:

- Management of major maternal cardiac disease – pregnant women who are likely to require bypass or valve surgery during pregnancy. The service also cares for women with cardiac disease who reside in the Pacific Islands.
- Management of women with major liver disease in pregnancy.
- Fetal transfusions for rhesus incompatibility. The service has a relationship in place to obtain irradiated blood from the National Blood service.
- Management of fetal cardiac anomalies that are “duct-dependent” and require neonatal prostaglandin infusion.
- Care for mothers and babies under the care of Auckland District Health Board Starship Hospital paediatric cardiologists who treat fetal cardiac problems throughout the country and from the Pacific region.
- Multi-fetal reduction for high-multiple pregnancies following fertility treatment.
- National service for laser ablation of fetal vessels in twin-twin transfusion
- National Maternal Fetal Medicine Network.
- Transfers of mothers and babies from regions outside Auckland District Health Board when more proximate neonatal intensive care units and maternity facilities are full.
- The service is currently the only centre in New Zealand training obstetricians in maternal fetal medicine.

Regional maternity services include:

- Pre-existing diabetes in pregnancy services to neighbouring Waitemata District Health Board.

- Pre-pregnancy counselling for high risk women.

- Care for pregnant women with HIV infection from Counties Manukau District Health Board and Waitemata District Health Board. With the rollout of the “National HIV screening in pregnancy” programme, these caseloads have increased but absolute numbers remain small.

- Diagnosis and management of major fetal abnormalities, including provision of mid-trimester termination services. This service is also provided to hospitals in the Mid Central District Health Board on an ad hoc basis due to limitations in the service provided in the Waikato region.

Local maternity facilities include:

- A 16 bed Labour and Birthing unit including a two bed High Dependency unit which is a Level 1 Intensive Care Unit with some Level 2 facilities. It managed 184
admissions in 2014.

- Women’s Assessment Unit which provides 24 hours a day, 7 days a week acute care for women experiencing pregnancy and gynaecologic complications.
- A Day Assessment Unit providing appointment based care for women with complex pregnancies, managing approximately 1511 referrals in 2014.
- Antenatal and postnatal ward. There are 77 antenatal and postnatal beds in the service for women and babies requiring secondary and tertiary care.

Local gynaecology services include:

- General gynaecology service provides care to women residing within the Auckland District Health Board catchment of Central Auckland (population approximately 400,000).
- One inpatient ward (Ward 97) at Auckland City Hospital
- Women’s Assessment Unit for acute gynaecology
- Day surgery at Greenlane Clinical Centre
- Outpatient services at Greenlane Clinical Center including:-
  - General and Specialty Gynaecology Clinics
  - Fertility services, including reproductive endocrinology
  - Urogynaecology, including service to Waitemata District Health Board
  - Early Pregnancy Assessment Unit
  - Epsom Day Unit providing a first trimester termination service
  - Colposcopy
  - Management of miscarriage and pregnancy failure
  - Complex hormone replacement therapy and family planning
  - Recurrent Miscarriage clinic

Regional gynaecology services include:

- The largest Gynaecological Oncology Cancer Centre in New Zealand, offering comprehensive cancer care for women with gynaecological malignancies, and hosts the supraregional Multidisciplinary Meeting with videoconferencing links to the eight referring District Health Boards.
- Vulval clinic provides a multidisciplinary “extended regional service” for all vulval disorders, covering the upper North Island, with quaternary referrals from the lower North Island.
- Female Multidisciplinary Clinic offers a service to women with multifaceted endocrine and anatomical conditions. This is a clinic where the reproductive endocrinologist, gynaecologist, psychologist and gynaecology physiotherapist work together to provide collective complex treatment plans for girls and women with complicated hormonal and gynaecologic concerns.
- First and second trimester termination of pregnancy.
- **Fertility Plus** services are integrated with the general gynaecology, maternity and medical services at Auckland District Health Board, ensuring that we can support all aspects of fertility treatment and ongoing care. It offers a range of secondary and tertiary reproductive endocrinology, infertility and sub-fertility services to the women of the
Northern Region. The IVF success rate is consistently in the top quartile for clinics in Australia and New Zealand. Our academic record includes numerous publications and research projects assessing and developing new treatments.

Fertility PLUS provides both publicly funded and private fertility treatment. Fertility Plus is accredited by the Australasian Reproductive Technologies Accreditation Committee (ARTAC).

Inpatient Services for gynaecology are:

- Ward 97 is a 22 bed ward providing care for women with acute gynaecology problems, perioperative care for elective and acute general gynaecology, gynaecologic oncology and breast surgery. It also provides care to women with early pregnancy complications and complications of fertility treatment. Medical and surgical terminations of pregnancy up to 20 weeks gestation are also performed.

- Radiology assisted procedures, such as fibroid embolisation, management of AV malformation and image guided biopsy are part of the Gynaecology caseload.

- The service has access to the maternity High Dependency Unit and the Critical Care Unit for those women requiring a higher level of care and monitoring.