



BAY OF PLENTY
DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD
HAUORA A TOI

OIA REQUEST

Received: 30 September 2021
Due: 29 October 2021
Response Date: 20 October 2021
Subject: Covid – DHB Treatment Protocols

Cnr Clarke St & 20th Ave
Private Bag 12024
Tauranga 3143
New Zealand
Phone 07 579 8000

In response to your request under the Official Information Act, please find our response below:

Request

1. What is the Covid-19 treatment protocol for hospitalised cases?

There is now a national guideline for the clinical management of patients with COVID infection that has been developed by the teams at Counties Manakau DHB. It is evidence based and consistent with international practice. It is available via the Ministry of Health website [Interim Guidance - Clinical Management of COVID-19 in Hospitalised Adults \(PDF, 625 KB\)](#). We have locally adapted it to include the local details of where things will happen, who to call etc and to allow it to be accessed via our antimicrobial guideline app, Microguide, from a smart phone. The content is largely the same.

2. Are some DHB's following different treatment protocols from others?

We cannot comment on what other DHB's are doing but we are using the national guideline.

3. Are DHB's free to make decisions about treatments for individuals with Covid-19?

Yes, as with all management there can be local decisions made however it would be standard practice to adhere to the evidence base.

4. To what extent are patients able to participate in decision-making about their treatment programmes?

We expect our clinical teams to work alongside patients to develop shared goals of care and design management around those. Choices around treatment would be discussed with the patient as part of that including the issues when there are not treatments available or proven for the condition being treated.

5. If a patient requests a blood test for Vitamin D and/or the administration of high dosage Vitamin C, are hospital staff able to provide these?

There would be a discussion with the patient around their wishes and clinical consideration given as to the appropriateness of the request. If the request was to have a test or treatment that is not currently appropriate or indicated given the latest available recommendations or evidence in general, it would not be done. Vitamin D testing is supported in some scenarios and therefore would depend on the clinical context. Given there is no current clinical evidence-based recommendation for high dose Vitamin C we do not provide it as part of treatment.



6. Do hospital staff have the right to refuse a patient's request and, if so, is there a process for a patient to appeal the decision?

Yes, they do. If requests are illegal, do not meet best practice guidelines and/or are not funded by the public health system we can refuse a request. There are a number of ways to appeal decisions however it would depend on the type of request.

Bay of Plenty DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website. Please note this response may be published on our website. [Official Information Act | Bay of Plenty District Health Board | Hauora a Toi | BOPDHB](#)

You have the right to request the Ombudsman investigate and review our response. www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'DB', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

DEBBIE BROWN

Senior Advisor Governance and Quality