

19 October 2021

Michael Vaughan

Via Email: fyi-request-16802-906337e6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Response to a request for official information

Dear Michael

Thank you for your request for official information, as transferred from the Ministry of Health and received 30 September 2021 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH), where you seek the following information:

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

Response:

We are guided by the Ministry of Health *COVID-19 Interim Guidance – Clinical Management of COVID-19 in Hospitalised Adults* which covers hospital management of patients with confirmed or probable COVID-19, and under section 18(d) 'the information requested is publicly available' at this link-

[https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/interim_guidance -
clinical management of covid-19 in hospitalised adults 2.pdf](https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/interim_guidance_-_clinical_management_of_covid-19_in_hospitalised_adults_2.pdf)

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

Response:

We are unable to comment regarding other DHB treatment protocols.

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

Response:

Clinicians make treatment decisions based on assessment of patients' needs, aligned to national guidance and international best practice.

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

Response:

All treatment programmes are discussed with patients and families/whanau; informed consent policies and procedures are maintained as per standard professional practice.

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?

Response:

A Vitamin D blood test is available, and high dose Vitamin C treatment, may also be provided where clinically indicated.

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?

Response:

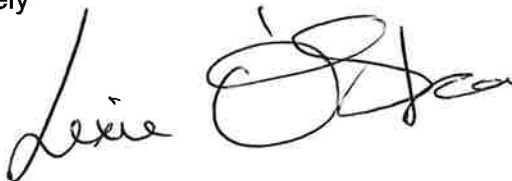
Clinicians are happy to consider any clinically indicated treatment, and can decline treatment that is not evidence based and is not considered of benefit to the patient.

If a patient has concern about a treatment decision, they can ask for a second opinion.

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602. If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz

I trust that this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lexie O'Shea', written in a cursive style.

Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive