

26 November 2021

Michael Vaughan

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

Dear Mr Vaughan

Re: Official Information Act Request 2261

I refer to your Official Information Act request as transferred to us from the Ministry of Health on 30 September 2021, in which you specifically requested the following:

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

The national treatment protocol is available at the Ministry of Health website. This is the current link: 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?

Other DHBs may follow different treatment protocols but should still follow the national guidelines.

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

DHBs themselves don't usually make decisions about treatment for individuals. This is done by the treating clinician in discussion with the patient.

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

They are able to participate in decision-making about their treatment in just the same way as happens with any other illness.

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?

Requests for specific investigations or treatment regimens by patients are always considered but the treating clinician has a duty of care to the patient. If his or her professional opinion is that the investigation or treatment can be clinically justified, they can provide it.

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?

As per question 5, the treating clinician has a duty to provide appropriate clinical care. If a patient's request for a specific investigation or treatment does not align with what would generally be considered as standard of care (for example, the treatment guidance in the link above), clinical staff have the right to decline the request.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of our decision by the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's Office can be contacted on 0800 802 602 or on-line at <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/>.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Fleming', written over a faint horizontal line.

Chris Fleming
Chief Executive Officer