

19 October 2021

Michael Vaughan

By email to fyi-request-16802-906337e6@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Michael

Re Official Information Request - Covid-19 Treatment Protocol questions

I refer to your official information request dated 19 September 2021 for information about Covid-19 Treatment Protocols transferred to us by the Ministry of Health 30 September:

- 1) What is the Covid-19 treatment protocol for hospitalised cases?
- 2) Are some DHB's following different treatment protocols from others?
- 3) Are DHB's free to make decisions about treatments for individuals with Covid-19?
- 4) To what extent are patients able to participate in decision-making about their treatment programmes?
- 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?
- 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

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

See attachments 1-8 which contain the guidelines in use at ADHB

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

ADHB can not answer this question for other DHBs. Our treatment guidelines are attached.

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

ADHB can not answer this question for other DHBs. Our treatment guidelines are attached. They have been developed in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and a range of clinicians.

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

See attachment 9.

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?

All patients are provided care consistent with Right 4, Code of Health and Disability Consumers' Rights:

Right 4

Right to services of an appropriate standard

- (1) Every consumer has the right to have services provided with reasonable care and skill.
- (2) Every consumer has the right to have services provided that comply with legal, professional, ethical, and other relevant standards.
- (3) Every consumer has the right to have services provided in a manner consistent with his or her needs.
- (4) Every consumer has the right to have services provided in a manner that minimises the potential harm to, and optimises the quality of life of, that consumer.
- (5) Every consumer has the right to co-operation among providers to ensure quality and continuity of services.

The standard process is that the patient and health provider discuss options for treatment that are consistent with Right 4. Where a patient requests a test or treatment that request or treatment will be assessed relative to Right 4 obligations.

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?

See answer to point 5. If the treatment is covered by Right 4 and is not provided a patient may complain to the Health and Disability Commissioner or might seek a direction from a Court.

I trust this information answers your questions.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive

Encl.

1. *COVID-19 Clinical Management Inpatients*
2. *Managing COVID-19 in Adults*
3. *Guidance for use of Non-Invasive Ventilation in the Adult Emergency Department*
4. *COVID-19 Risk Screen Assessment Tool Patient Sheet*
5. *Process for Confirming COVID-19 Status Following a Swab*
6. *COVID-19 (Novel Coronavirus) Bed Placement*
7. *CED Transferring to Starship Wards*
8. *COVID-19 Mental Health Community Acute Pathways Guidelines (ACOS CAMHS Older Adult and Adult)*
9. *Auckland DHB Informed Consent Policy*