

26 October 2021

Michael Vaughan

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

Tena koe Michael



WHANGANUI
DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD

Tē Poari Hauora o Whanganui

100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

Official Information Request- OIA 13813 COVID Treatment Protocols

The Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB) has received the transfer of your request from the Ministry of Health on 29 September 2021 under Section 14 of the OIA. You requested the following information:

- 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?"

The Whanganui District Health Board response:

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

As per the MoH guidance which can be found on their website.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-health-professionals/covid-19-advice-all-health-professionals>

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

Not able to answer that - I don't have visibility of other DHBs.

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

All treatment of all patients can and should be individualised to each patient's specific situation.

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

The approach of the WDHB is patient and whanau centred care. Wherever possible this means that patients are able to participate in decision-making about their care.

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?

In theory, yes, but management decisions in each circumstance would be based on their individual merits.

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?"

Just as a patient has a right to refuse care recommended, a health care provider has a right to refuse to provide care and treatment that is not viewed as in the best interest of the patient, or is deemed an inappropriate use of scarce health resources. In all cases, it is expected that health

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professionals can demonstrate careful consideration of the entire circumstances of the situation including the evidence, and as would be expected there are avenues to review such decisions both internally and externally should it be deemed necessary by either party.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Nga mihi

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G. Dyer', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Graham Dyer

Kaihautu Hauora - Acting Chief Executive
Whanganui District Health Board