

29 May 2020

Amy van Wey Lovatt

Email: fyi-request-12108-26ab0a13@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Amy

Official information request W20-451

I refer to your official information request dated 3 April 2020 to the Ministry of Health. Your request was transferred to Wairarapa DHB on 1 May 2020.

Request:

I respectfully request a copy of each referral pathway for each region in New Zealand.

Background:

I am a New Zealand citizen. Waikato DHB, my DHB of Domicile (DoD), has insisted that my GP provide a referral to services outside my DoD; however, when my GP referred me to the Southern DHB, the only DHB we could find which had a protocol consistent with the Endocrine Societies Guidelines for testing for hyper aldosteronism, the Southern DHB rejected the referral on the grounds that the referral was from my GP and not my specialist, Dr Wu, at my DoD. Clearly, Waikato DHB and Southern DHB cannot both be correct, as they contradict each other. [The statement, referrals must be from GPs AND referrals cannot be from GPs, is logically false.]

Response:

We have approached you for more specific details to help address your queries. In lieu of any response, the following information provides a general overview for referral pathways into the DHB.

The most common avenue for referrals into the DHB is from General Practitioners and Specialist Clinicians. Upon receipt, the DHB will triage and prioritise these requests. The DHB has an online Clinical Pathway tool shared across the Wairarapa, Hutt and Capital & Coast DHBs to guide referrers through the indications, clinical management and requirements for referral for many common conditions. Whilst there is no specific policy that depicts the referral pathway for services into Wairarapa DHB, referral expectations are well understood by all clinicians and our clinical pathway guides well accessed.

Some referrals may not be able to be managed by this DHB, for example if the patient requires a service that is not provided locally. In this instance, the local DHB will provide a referral to the most appropriate DHB providing the service required.

It is not usual for a GP working in primary care to provide a referral to an out of area DHB as the local DHB funds services for its population, including for those services provided elsewhere by other DHBs. It is expected that the local DHB be involved in the referral process.

I trust this satisfies your enquiry.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Wairarapa District Health Board website no less than one week after the response has been provided to you. Any personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. The DHB will endeavour to resolve any concerns you should raise but, subject to any legal grounds for withholding, ultimately reserves the right to publish any information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact:

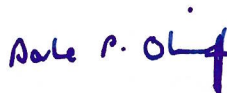
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Yours sincerely



Dale Oliff

Chief Executive