

06 April 2020

Amy S Van Wey Lovatt
Via FYI.org.nz

E-mail: fyi-request-12505-5417ba09@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Ms Van Wey Lovatt

Official Information Act (1982) Request

I write in response to your Official Information Act request, received by us on 23 March 2020. You requested the following information:

The Royal College of Pathologists Australasia has a policy titled "Provision of second opinions with particular reference to morphological examination", which addresses the best practice with regards to referral for second and subsequent opinion of pathology specimens.

Request 1:

- **I respectfully request your DHB's policy on Second Opinions requested by a third party who is a medical practitioner, currently involved in the medical care of the patient from whom the pathological material was originally obtained.**

Request 2:

- **In the event that your DHB deviates from the aforementioned RCPA policy, I request an explanation for why your DHB deviates from best practice.**

Please note, my request does not reflect the standard of care provided at your DHB, but is to ascertain whether there is consistent adherence to RCPA best practice amongst all NZ DHBs.

For context on our response, CM Health Services provide health and support services to more than 569,400 people residing in South Auckland, both in hospitals and community settings. Our services are delivered via hospital, outpatient/ ambulatory and community-based models of care. We also provide regional and supra-regional specialist services for Burns, Plastics and Orthopaedics. Some services are provided to our community by other DHBs for the entire Auckland region.

Our responses are below:

CM Health follows the Royal College of Pathologists Australasia policy "Provision of second opinions with particular reference to morphological examination" and the linked policies within that document.

For clarity, we provide the link to the document, which is publicly available:

- <https://www.rcpa.edu.au/Library/College-Policies/Policies/Provision-of-Second-and-Subsequent-Opinions-Histop>

I trust this information satisfactorily answers your query. If you are not satisfied with this response you are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act.

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

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'F. Apa', with a stylized circular flourish above the name.

Fepulea'i Margie Apa
Chief Executive Officer
Counties Manukau Health