

23 February 2021

Amy S Van Wey Lovatt



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

Via email: fyi-request-12519-a609a95a@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Amy

Official Information Act Request – OIA 13334 Pathology Specimens Requiring Second Opinion

On 23 January 2021, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

"I am a New Zealand citizen, which is demonstrated by the fact that the MoH has already confirmed my citizenship prior to responding to my OIA requests (or a google search of my name).

The Royal College of Pathologists Australasia (RCPA) 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."

Whanganui District Health Boards response:

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.

Whanganui DHB clinicians request second pathology opinions through MedLab Central, the DHB's contracted Pathology and Laboratory Services provider. Medlab Central pathologists seek second opinions in accordance with the RCPA policy. All of the pathologists are Fellows of the Royal Australasian College of Pathologists and they conduct their practice in full accordance with the policies of that college. Their procedures are annually scrutinized by the accrediting agency, International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ), for compliance.

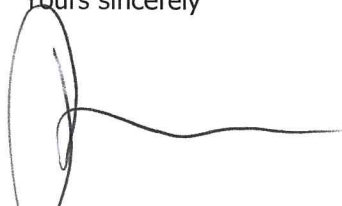
Request 2:

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

We understand there is no deviation from the RCPA policy in practice.

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

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, loopy initial 'R' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line extending to the right.

Russell Simpson
Chief Executive