

26 January 2022

Mr Andrew McGregor
Email: fyi-request-17690-28706637@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr McGregor

Re: Official Information Act Request 2330

I refer to your Official Information Act request, as transferred to us from the Ministry of Health on 22 December 2021, in which you specifically requested the following:

What are the official Guidelines/procedures for urgent X-rays (24 hour)

Urgent x-rays are available 24 hours each day in both Southland and Dunedin Hospitals. There are no specific guidelines or procedures for obtaining urgent x-rays, other than the appropriate referral being made to the radiology department following assessment of the patient by medical staff.

There is no specific document, however, there is a general Management of Referrals - Radiology District document available to guide the referral process (attached).

What are the Guidelines/procedures for patients repeatedly admitted to Emergency Department with severe epigastric pain/ and upper right and left quadrant pain

We have no specific guidelines for patients repeatedly presenting to the Emergency Department with severe epigastric pain/ and upper right and left quadrant pain. All patients are assessed based on their symptoms, history, examination, and diagnostic tests. Repeated presentations for any condition do, however, always raise an increased suspicion of a serious underlying condition.

Guidelines/procedure for investigating possible Colonic Motility Dysfunction/Defecatory Disorders/Anorectal Dysfunction

We have no specific guidelines for investigating possible Colonic Motility Dysfunction/Defecatory Disorders/Anorectal Dysfunction. All patients are assessed and treated according to their symptoms, history, examination, and diagnostic tests.

You have the right to seek an investigation and review of our decision by the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman's Office can be contacted on 0800 802 602 or on-line at <http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/>.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Chris Fleming', written in a cursive style.

Chris Fleming
Chief Executive Officer