

8 January 2015

Mr Iain Palmer
Masterton

Email: fyi-request-3446-b37f8626@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Mr Palmer

Thank you for your email received 4 December 2015, requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, regarding prescription costs at Wairarapa District Health Board (DHB).

Request:

I have just been forced to pay \$45 for three general painkillers prescribed by a Dentist.

I was informed that due to the script being from a specialist there is a higher cost per medication than if it was from a GP where I would have only paid \$15.

GP per med - \$5

Specialist per med - \$15

Can you please explain why I am being charged what feels like daylight robbery due to the script being from a specialist compared to GP for the same medication.

Response:

After checking with the Pharmacy Team Leader, I can offer you the following information.

If a patient is registered with a Primary Health Organisation (PHO) then their prescription charge is \$5 per item (ie with a GP where the patient is registered). If a discharge prescription from a public hospital is written, then the charge is also \$5 per item.

However for patients who are not registered with a PHO, or see a prescriber privately (that is, not a government funded service) then the standard script fee of \$15 per item applies.

In this situation the patient is receiving a non government funded service from a dentist and therefore the standard \$15 per item applies.

Prescription fees are charged irrespective of the type of medicine, actual cost or the quantity issued.

Yours sincerely



Adri Isbister

Chief Executive

Wairarapa District Health Board