26 May 2020

Amy Van Wey Lovatt
fyi-request-12108-26ab0a13@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Amy

Partial Transfer of Official Information Act Request

The Ministry of Health transferred part of your Official Information Act request regarding referrals and Inter District Flows to district health boards on 1 May 2020. The part of your request transferred is as follows:

According to the MoH Operational Policy Framework 2019/20, available through Nationwide Service Framework Library <https://nsfl.health.govt.nz>, section 7.5.2 "Regions should ensure that clear referral pathways are in place and known to all clinicians."

Request 1:
I respectfully request a copy of each referral pathway for each region in New Zealand.

The section of the Operational Policy Framework that you have referenced relates to inter district flows.

7.5 Referral and management of IDFs for inpatient elective services

7.5.1   DHBs that provide regional or national services must ensure equity of access on the basis of clinical need. They should not prioritise access based on where a patient lives.

7.5.2   Regions should ensure that clear referral pathways are in place and known to all clinicians.

The DHB of Domicile (DoD) is the DHB that is responsible for funding services for its resident population. The DHB of Service (DoS) is the DHB that provides the service. Northland DHB is not a DoS for the purpose of regional/tertiary level or national services. We may however be a (DoD) when one of our patients is referred to a regional/tertiary or national service provider.

Our referral pathways are as follows:
- Referral to Northland DHB (generally by a primary care clinician)
- Referral triaged by relevant Northland DHB clinician
- Appointment/Diagnostics locally or referred to another DHB which provides a "Regional" or "National" service
- Further consultation either in DoD or another DHB
- Treatment.

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If you have any queries relating to Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Dr Nick Chamberlain
Chief Executive