

29 October 2020

Gregory Soar  
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**WHANGANUI**  
**DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD**

*Te Poari Hauora o Whanganui*

**Via email:** fyi-request-13978-8caf53d8@requests.fyi.org.nz

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

Dear Gregory

**Official Information Act Request - OIA 13181 Health Improvement Practitioners**

On 14 October 2020, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

It is my understanding that WDHB funds the Health Improvement Practitioner (H.I.P) scheme for Gonville Health Whanganui. I have spoken with Angela who organises the H.I.P **staff** who confirmed HIP's may not script drugs nor diagnose patients.

1. On what date was it known by HIP's that they were not to prescribe medications/ what date were HIP's told and understood no scripting of medications?
2. Was the no scripting medications known to HIP **staff** prior to HIP **staff** taking up their position?
3. Why were HIP **staff** prescribing medications, then saying they could not prescribe, then later saying they could script medications and yet later again saying they could not?  
(these actions have caused mental distress and refusal to see HIP Meltzer at Gonville Health ever again.)

**Whanganui District Health Boards response:**

1. **On what date was it known by HIP's that they were not to prescribe medications/ what date were HIP's told and understood no scripting of medications?**

This would have been learnt during Phase 1 training with Te Pou. This training was held on 23 June to 3 July.

2. **Was the no scripting medications known to HIP staff prior to HIP staff taking up their position?**

No scripting would not have been known to HIP **staff** prior to taking up their position.

3. **Why were HIP staff prescribing medications, then saying they could not prescribe, then later saying they could script medications and yet later again saying they could not?**

Unable to answer question three with current information. Would need to understand and further investigate the specific situation being described.

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

Yours sincerely

Russell Simpson  
**Chief Executive**

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