



20 October 2021

Michael Vaughan
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Dear Michael

Official Information Act Request

The Ministry of Health transferred your Official Information request regarding COVID-19 hospital treatments to Northland DHB on 24 September 2021.

1) What is the Covid-19 treatment protocol for hospitalised cases?

Northland DHB's current treatment protocol is attached. Information is also available on the Ministry of Health website.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-health-professionals/covid-19-advice-all-health-professionals#adult-management>

2) Are some DHB's following different treatment protocols from others?

Northland DHB does not hold information about treatment protocols in other district health boards.

3) Are DHB's free to make decisions about treatments for individuals with Covid-19?

All patient care is tailored to the individual patient's presenting condition.

4) To what extent are patients able to participate in decision-making about their treatment programmes?

Patient care at Northland DHB's hospitals includes involvement of patients and whanau where possible with shared decision making. Northland DHB is required to meet the criteria set out in the Health and Disability Commissioner Code of Health and Disability Consumers' Rights. The Code is publicly available on www.hdc.org.nz.

5) If a patient requests a blood test for Vitamin D and/or the administration of high dosage Vitamin C, are hospital staff able to provide these?

A patient request for specific tests or medications would be considered by treating clinicians and discussed with the patient in the context of the patient's clinical circumstances. We do not offer IV vitamin C or Ivermectin. High dose vitamin C therapy is not currently included in our best practice guidelines.

6) *Do hospital staff have the right to refuse a patient's request and, if so, is there a process for a patient to appeal the decision?"*

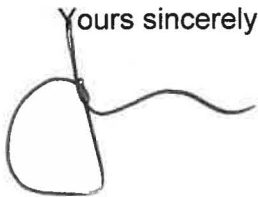
Northland DHB continues to provide evidence based treatment in line with best practice guidelines. Any requests in line with best practice would always be considered where indicated.

If patients wish to take their own therapies while in hospital then this will need to be provided by the patient and clinicians will not administer these therapies unless directed by the DHB/Ministry of Health to do so. Northland DHB will not be responsible for any side effects of these therapies but will do our best to advise, if we are asked, regarding safety and efficacy of any therapies. We will not use therapies "off-label" unless recommended by the Ministry of Health and our respective Clinical Advisory Groups.

Northland DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist public understanding of how we deliver our services. This includes proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been provided to you. Personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be publicly available we will consider your views.

If you have any queries about Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact the Chief Executive's office in the first instance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Wansbone', with a large loop at the start and a wavy tail.

John Wansbone
Acting Chief Executive