

3 December 2021

Athina Andonatu

By email: fyi-request-17529-c2b20da4@requests.fyi.org.nz
Ref: H202115966

Dear Athina

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 15 November 2021. Please find a response to each part of your request below.

Given that the COVID-19 Independent Safety Monitoring Board are the ones responsible for determining whether deaths that occurred after receiving the comirnaty injection are attributed to the vaccine, independence is crucial. Yet how independent can they be when their wages are being paid by the government? Does that not create a conflict of interest? Just like a tobacco company funding the research that says smoking was not a cause for cancer, we now know different.

Please note the cause of death is investigated and determined by Coroners, an independent judicial officer, and not the COVID-19 Vaccine Independent Safety Monitoring Board (CV-ISMB). For further information about the coronial process please see here:

<https://coronialservices.justice.govt.nz/coronial-services/>.

The CV-ISMB have declared their conflicts of interest. They are paid for their time however they have other employment and are not dependant on the ISMB remuneration.

Given the 94 deaths registered with CARM as of 23 Oct 2021 it is of grave concern that only one of the deaths is being attributed to the injection being unrolled.

1) I'd like any correspondence the COVID-19 Independent Safety Monitoring Board have used to assess whether the death or adverse effect was related the receiving of the injection, without any identifying information of the person that correspondence relates to.

This part of your request is withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Act to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased natural persons.

2) Correspondence on how it was determined that 42 deaths could not be assessed due to insufficient information, without any identifying information of the person that correspondence relates to.

As there was no information to assess, the Ministry cannot provide you with the requested correspondence.

3) Correspondence relating to the 10 cases that are still under investigation, without any identifying information of the person that correspondence relates to.

As mentioned above, the coroner investigates and determines cause of death, as such the Ministry does not hold correspondence relating to this part of your request.

4) Please provide me with the protocol the COVID-19 Independent Safety Monitoring Board use when determining cause of the deaths reported in the CARM register

Please find attached to this letter a diagram for the process for assessment of reports of death from COVID-19 to the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) at the New Zealand Pharmacovigilance Centre. CARM undertakes pharmacovigilance under contract to the Ministry.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases.

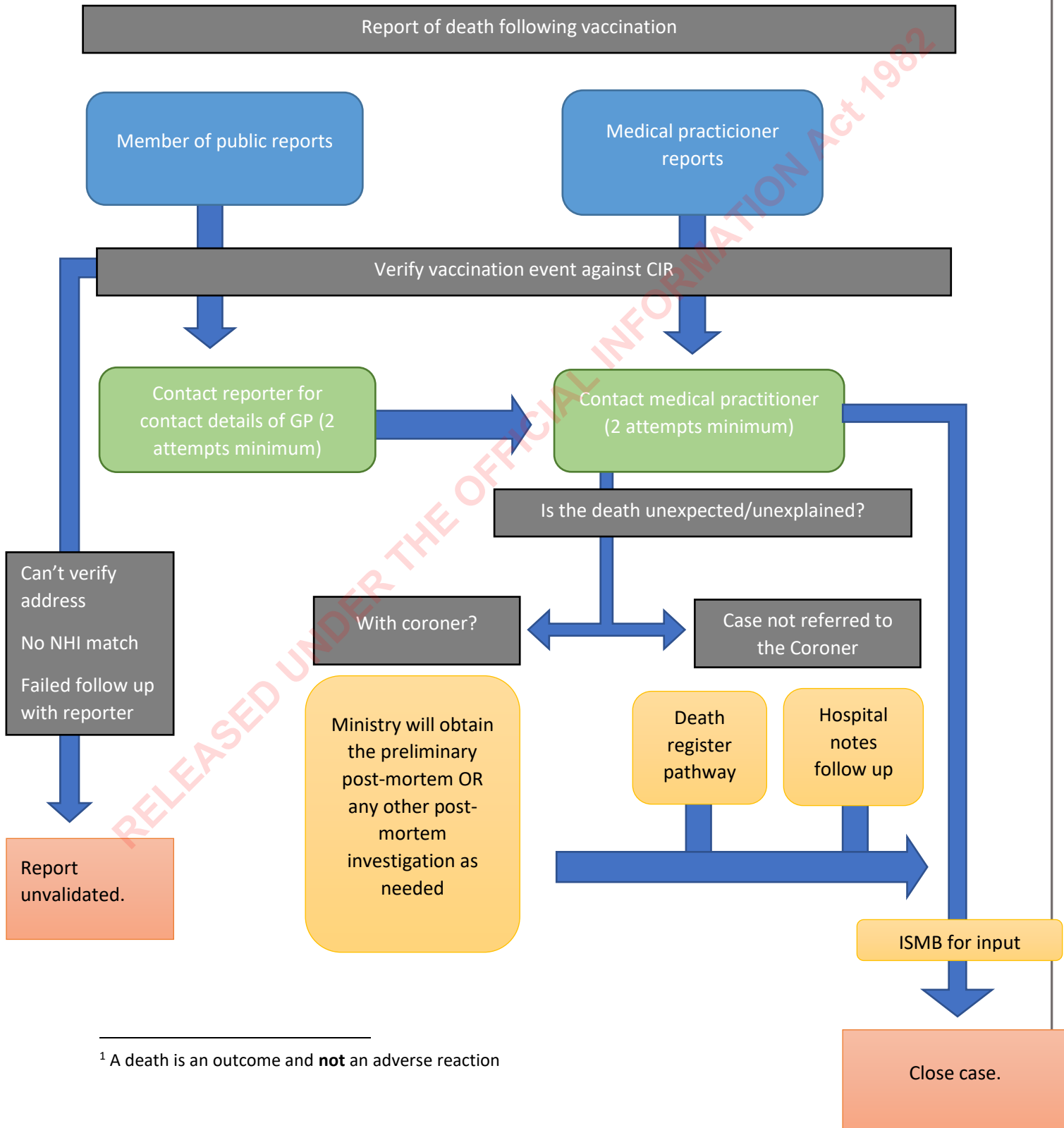
Yours sincerely



Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe

Process for Assessment of Report of Death

Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) and the COVID-19 Vaccination and Immunisation Programme (CVIP) agree that this is the process that all deaths reported to CARM for the COVID-19 vaccines must undergo for adequate assessment into a potential causal relationship of death¹ and associated adverse events to COVID-19 vaccination event.



¹ A death is an outcome and **not** an adverse reaction