



BAY OF PLENTY
DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD
HAUORA A TOI

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OIA REQUEST

Received: 07 March 2022
Due: 04 April 2022
Response Date: 09 March 2022
Subject: Psychiatric Medication Compliance

In response to your request under the Official Information Act, please find our response below:

Request

1. Patients are being told that they will be forced to take their psychiatric medication even if they are not under the Mental Health Act.
2. What methods are being used to do this and what is the estimated cost-burden to the DHB?

Response

1. A number of patients in New Zealand's mental health services are offered psychiatric medication as part of their treatment, this is done in line with the New Zealand Health and Disability Code of Rights. All patients have the right to refuse medication, including those under the Mental Health Act. There are certain sections under the Mental Health Act where a patient is unable to refuse, i.e. up and to the time a court determines their legal status under Section 29/30 and for the first month following the making of that order. Outside those time frames patients can refuse treatment and obtain a second opinion and medication can only be given in an emergency. As mentioned above, those patients who are not subject to the Mental Health Act cannot be forced to take treatment/medication.
2. Pursuant to clause 18(e) of the Official Information Act the BOPDHB cannot provide this information on the grounds that the information does not exist. We are unable to respond to your request as to the estimated cost burden as this information does not exist.

Bay of Plenty DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website. Please note this response may be published on our website. [Official Information Act | Bay of Plenty District Health Board | Hauora a Toi | BOPDHB](#)

You have the right to request the Ombudsman investigate and review our response. www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

DEBBIE BROWN

Senior Advisor Governance and Quality

