

13 MAY 2015

Charlie Faulknor  
[fyi-request-2654-d0a84b0c@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-2654-d0a84b0c@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Ref: H201501443

Freyberg Building  
20 Aitken Street  
PO Box 5013  
Wellington 6145  
New Zealand  
T +64 4 496 2000

Dear Mr Faulknor

### Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request dated 23 April 2015 for information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) for a "list of hospitals/authorities who process, test and store the heel prick tests (Guthrie cards) within New Zealand".

In New Zealand, heel prick tests are part of the Newborn Metabolic Screening Programme. The Programme is governed by the National Screening Unit of the Ministry of Health.

Consent and obtaining heel prick tests are the responsibility of Lead Maternity Carers. For more information on their role and responsibilities see <http://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/services-and-support/health-care-services/maternity-services/your-lead-maternity-carer>. Heel prick tests are taken either in the family home or in hospital.

The Guthrie card is then sent to LabPLUS at Auckland District Health Board for analysis. Approximately one percent of cards which are positive for the first test for cystic fibrosis are sent to Canterbury Health Laboratories at Canterbury District Health Board for further testing.

Once testing is completed, Guthrie cards are either returned to families or stored securely with limited access in a storage facility (managed by LabPLUS). Further information on the requirements for the Programme can be found on the National Screening Unit website [www.nsu.govt.nz](http://www.nsu.govt.nz)

I trust this information fulfils your request.

Yours sincerely



Jill Lane  
Director  
National Services Purchasing  
National Health Board  
Ministry of Health  
New Zealand