

22 June 2015

Rosemary Lynch

Email: [fyi-request-2767-76d78be9@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-2767-76d78be9@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Ms Lynch

In response to your email transferred from the Ministry of Health on 26 May 2015, requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, regarding medical supplies at Wairarapa District Health Board.

Request and responses:

1. *How much money is spent annually on the purchase of hollow-bore needles for use in the New Zealand public health care system and who is the provider of these supplies?*

Wairarapa DHBs annual spend was \$93,730.00, two suppliers being Becton Dickson and Device Technologies.

2. *What are the numbers and types of (hollow-bore) needles purchased annually for use in the public healthcare system?*

Type of hollow-bore needles	Number
Blunt Fill	53,425
BD Hypo	16,092
BD Angiocath	180
BD Nexiva	12,930
BD Insyte	1,514
Spinal	623
<b>Total</b>	<b>84,764</b>

3. *How many public health care workers, who have experienced a needle stick injury while in the workplace, test positive for Hepatitis B Virus, Hepatitis C Virus, and/or the Human Immunodeficiency Virus annually?*

There have been no needle stick injuries at Wairarapa DHB where anyone has contracted the above viruses.

4. *Does the DHB have any plans and/or policies in place to reduce instances of needle stick injuries in the public health care system?*

To reduce instances of needle stick injuries Standard Precautions are covered as part of the Orientation programme. An Infection Control Manual is available for all staff on the Intranet.

The manual provides guidance on the prevention of needle stick injuries and includes information on:

Standard Precautions, Needles and Sharp Instruments, Recapping Needles, Sharps Containers, Outbreak Procedures, Precautions needed for Selected Infections and Conditions.

The Infection Prevention and Control Team also provide on site support as required.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Cooper  
**Acting Chief Executive**  
**Wairarapa District Health Board**