

14 September 2015

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Tom Broadhead  
1 Bell St  
Featherston 5710

Email: [fyi-request-3061-509303f7@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-3061-509303f7@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Dear Mr Broadhead

Thank you for email dated 18 August 2015 requesting information under the Official Information Act 1982, regarding treatment to obstetric patients relative to their Body Mass Index (BMI) at Wairarapa District Health Board (WDHB).

Request:

- 1 Any formal or draft policy from the last two years relating to the acceptance of maternity patients at Masterton Hospital.
- 2 Any formal or draft policy from the last two years relating to risk assessment of patients who require anaesthetic, either general or local, either in relation to birth or any other medical procedure.
- 3 Any papers, minutes, notes, memo or other such records from the last two years relating to Hutt Valley District Health Board meetings, or sub group or sub committee meetings, which discuss when maternity patients or patients requiring anaesthetic should be accepted at Masterton Hospital and when they should be referred to either Hutt Hospital or another hospital.
- 4 Any record of any analysis undertaken (including medical, ethical and cost/benefit analysis or any other kind of analysis) to inform decisions relating to when maternity patients or patients requiring anaesthetic should be accepted at Masterton Hospital and when they should be referred to either Hutt Hospital or another hospital.
- 5 All emails from or to Christopher Smith at Masterton Hospital relating to when maternity patients or patients requiring anaesthetic should be accepted at Masterton Hospital and when they should be referred to either Hutt Hospital or another hospital or the policy relating to acceptance of pregnant women with a certain BMI.

Response:

1. Attachment 1. A draft BMI Guideline that was developed in 2015 and has been the basis of on-going conversations with WDHB clinicians.
2. Attachment 2. A final draft of an internal document that confirms the BMI guideline and clinical pathway for obstetric patients that has been agreed in September 2015.

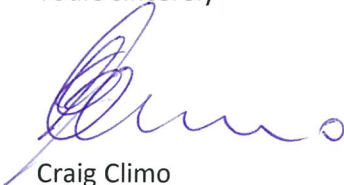
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Attachment 3. A copy of the patient leaflet that outlines the BMI guidelines and potential pathways.

3. Please request directly from Hutt Valley District Health Board.
4. Attachments 4 and 5. There has been a lot of conversation and dialogue on the care of patients who have a high BMI. Conversations and dialogue has included the reference to international literature. Attachments 6 and 7. Relevant extracts from the minutes of a meeting held on 14 December 2014 and one held on 20 March 2015 where the subject of BMI relative to anaesthesia was discussed with clinicians.  
Analysis of the cost of implementing the BMI Guideline and clinical pathway has not been undertaken. The primary driver of clinical decisions that may relate to patients BMI is driven by patient safety, not financial efficiency.
5. Attachments 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and a8 are all emails as requested. Some names have been redacted under Section ((2)9A) to protect the privacy of natural persons.

You have a right to seek a review, under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act, by way of a complaint to the Ombudsman.

Yours sincerely



Craig Climo

**Interim Chief Executive**

**Wairarapa District Health Board**