

6 November 2015

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Dear Sir/Madam

Official Information Act (OIA) Request

Your OIA request of 14 October 2015 is acknowledged and has been passed on to me for response.

The information you requested follows.

Information on prospective Male-to-Female sexual reassignment surgery providers – information including but not limited to correspondence with prospective providers, assessments of providers or correspondence with other DHBs or specialists.

Sexual reassignment surgery is not performed at MidCentral Health.

Discussions with the MidCentral Health Endocrinologists have confirmed the following;

- Patients seeking gender reassignment are referred to the Endocrinology Service for medical assessment of hormone status and management.
- Dependent on the potential for gender reassignment, the Massey University Psychology Service provides a set number of assessments to determine psychological suitability.
- There is no formal referral process from the MidCentral Health Endocrinology Service to surgical services at another District Health Board. The patient accesses these services as a private patient and therefore establishes contact.
- Some gender reassignment surgery is not provided in New Zealand (e.g. "bottom surgery" for Male-to-Female, or Female-to-Male) but some is (e.g. mastectomy, breast enlargement, orchidectomy) which one could consider a limited form of surgery.

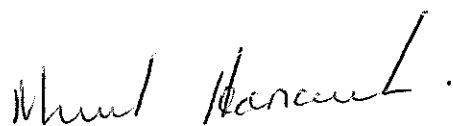
Operations Director, Hospital Services

MidCentral Health, PO Box 2056, Palmerston North Central, Palmerston North 4440
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- “Bottom surgery” is sourced in Thailand, the United States and Europe.
- No surgery is available in a formally funded way (except for via the Ministry of Health’s High Cost Treatment Pool) and patients will generally source a surgeon they are happy with privately.
- There is no record of contact with “reassignment “ surgeons within the Endocrinology Service.

I trust this addresses your request.

Yours sincerely



Lyn Horgan
Operations Director
Hospital Services

AP