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Tom Sellers

Email: fyi-request-4144-4772ca32@requests.fyi.org.nz;

Dear Tom

Re: Official Information Act Request CDHB 9397

We refer to your email dated 15 June 2016 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act. This was clarified by you on 17 June 2016 as CORS being the Christchurch Opioid Recovery Service.

- 1. If CORS case managers have access to patient files requested, are they required to release such information if so requested by the patient to which the files pertain?**

The Canterbury DHB has a standard process for the release of health information to an individual. Please refer to the form attached as **Appendix 1**. When individuals apply for a copy of their clinical notes the request is made to Medical Records not individual services such as CORS (Christchurch Opioid Recovery Service).

- 2. If CORS are not in direct possession of a patients case files, are they required to obtain such information and present it to patients?**

CORS would not request the individual's notes as Medical Records is responsible for releasing the information.

- 3. If case managers are not allowed to release patient files, are managers of CORS allowed to release such information to patients to which the files pertain?**

CORS staff would not release an individual's notes as Medical records is responsible for releasing the information.

- 4. What is the procedure for the release of patient files by CORS to patients?**

The Canterbury DHB has a standard process for the release of health information to an individual. The individual is required to complete a Release of Information form and forward it to Medical Records. Medical Records review the individual's information to ensure compliance with the Privacy Act 1993 and the Health Information Privacy Code 1994, Rule 6: Access to Information.

5. Is CORS governed by the Health Information Privacy Code 1994? I refer you specifically to Rule 6

All Canterbury DHB services are required to comply with the Privacy Act 1993 and Health Information Privacy Code 1994.

6. If CORS is not governed by the Health Information Privacy Code 1994, please direct me to the relevant documents that explains CORS policy towards the release of patient information.

CORS services are required to comply with:

- The Privacy Act 1993 and Health Information Privacy Code 1994.
- Health Act 1956; 22C Disclosure of Health Information; 22 F Communication of Information for Diagnostic and other Purposes.

7. On your website <http://www.cdhb.health.nz/> under the tab patients and visitors-- sub tab concerns about your care-- you note under the heading "Personal information and your privacy" that "There are clearly stated rules for the release of any information in the Health Information Privacy Code (1994) (HIP Code) and other legislation." Please specifically list the "other legislation" that governs the release of any information in respects of patients.

Health Act 1956; 22C Disclosure of Health Information; 22 F Communication of Information for Diagnostic and other Purposes.

8. If possible, please note the relevant sections and subsections that you believe that grant you the legislative authority to release/ not release patient files.

As per Privacy Act 1993 and Health Information Privacy Code 1994

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
**General Manager,
Planning, Funding & Decision Support**