

14 October 2020

Maria Hassan

Via email: marianhassan2@gmail.com



100 Heads Road, Private Bag 3003
Whanganui 4540, New Zealand

Dear Maria

Official Information Act Request – Endoscopy Procedures

Under section 14 of the Official Information Act, the Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB) received a partial transfer of your request from the Ministry of Health on 15 September 2020. You requested the following information in relation to endoscopy procedures at Whanganui DHB.

Please note that all my questions relate only to endoscopy procedures:

1. In the last five years how many endoscopy consents were undertaken by nurses and could I please get a breakdown of the procedures these consents related to (e.g., gastroscopy, colonoscopy, ERCP, etc)? I also want to know who conducted the procedure.
2. In the last five years how many endoscopy consents were done by doctors and could I please get a breakdown of the procedures these consents related to? I also want to know who conducted the procedure.
3. For the last five years, can you please state how many high-risk endoscopy procedures (based on what you classify as high-risk procedures) nurses consented patients to?
4. In the last five years, how many deaths have been attributed to endoscopy procedures?
5. What is best practice in terms of who (i.e. doctors or nurses) should be consenting Patients to endoscopy procedures? Should consent be obtained by the clinician conducting the procedure?"

Whanganui District Health Board response:

- 1. In the last five years how many endoscopy consents were undertaken by nurses and could I please get a breakdown of the procedures these consents related to (e.g, gastroscopy, colonoscopy, ERCP, etc)? I also want to know who conducted the procedure.**

Consent to endoscopy procedures at WDHB are always completed and signed by a Medical Professional not a nurse.

- 2. In the last five years how many endoscopy consents were done by doctors and could I please get a breakdown of the procedures these consents related to? I also want to know who conducted the procedure.**

During the last 5 years all consents have been completed by Doctors for endoscopy procedures. This is predominantly the Consultant or Registrar performing the procedure. Endoscopy procedures completed include the following;

Gastroscopy, Colonoscopy, flexible sigmoidoscopy, Haemorrhoid banding or injection, bronchoscopy, PEG insertion

These procedures are all carried out by appropriately qualified specialist doctors and/or their qualified specialist trainees under their direct supervision. This is consistent with New Zealand Medical Council and relevant medical colleges' guidelines.

3. For the last five years, can you please state how many high-risk endoscopy procedures (based on what you classify as high-risk procedures) nurses consented patients to?

Zero

4. In the last five years, how many deaths have been attributed to endoscopy procedures?

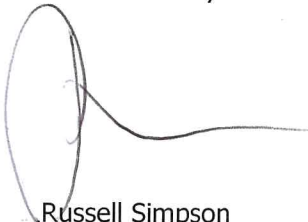
Zero

5. What is best practice in terms of who (i.e. doctors or nurses) should be consenting Patients to endoscopy procedures? Should consent be obtained by the clinician conducting the procedure?"

Whenever possible consent is completed and signed by the operating clinician or their trainee, (those performing the procedure) just prior to the procedure being carried out. Information is given to the patient as part of a process by preassessment nurses, admission nurses and doctors, in written and verbal formats, however the consent itself is written, witnessed and signed by a doctor.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OIA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a large, loopy initial 'R' followed by a horizontal line.

Russell Simpson
Chief Executive