



10 February 2022

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Requests

The Ministry of Health transferred three Official Information Act requests to district health boards on 22 December 2021.

- *Guidelines/procedure for investigating possible Colonic Motility Dysfunction/Defecatory Disorders/Anorectal Dysfunction*

Northland DHB receives outpatient and inpatient referrals for more complex colonic motility and anorectal dysfunction. Patients are assessed and treated on a case-by-case basis. There is no specific guideline/procedure for managing these presentations.

- *What are the Guidelines/procedures for patients repeatedly admitted to Emergency Department with severe epigastric pain/ and upper right and left quadrant pain*

Northland DHB does not have a specific guideline/procedure for managing these presentations. Our clinicians assess each presentation on a case-by-case basis depending on their clinical need.

- *What are the official Guidelines/procedures for urgent X-rays (24 hour)*

Northland DHB does not have official guidelines for urgent x-rays as each case is assessed on the individual clinical circumstances of the patient. The exception is for referrals received from general practitioners. The relevant information is attached.

Northland DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist public understanding of how we deliver our services. This includes proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been provided to you. Personal or identifying information will be redacted from any response published online. If you consider there are good reasons why this response should not be publicly available we will consider your views.

If you have any queries about Northland DHB's response to your information request please contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nick Chamberlain', written over a light blue background.

Dr Nick Chamberlain
Chief Executive



X-ray Urgent GP Referrals

For urgent and semi-urgent cases that are not being referred to ED, the GP will phone the MIT's at extension 7584 and will liaise with them regarding the urgent x-rays required. A suitable fit in time will be arranged for that day. The MIT will complete the 'urgent x-ray' chit located on general viewing room bench and then give this to the radiology reception staff on front desk for the impending arrival of the patient.

The GP is to give the request form to the patient to bring with them. No faxes are accepted unless there are extenuating circumstances which will be noted.

The x-ray will be performed and an "Urgent" report will be authorised by the Radiologist and available within 24 hours of the x-ray being taken.

The MIT must ascertain from the GP where the patient should go after the x-ray, eg home or back to the GP and documented on the urgent chit form.

Northland District Health Board	
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