

19 January 2021

Rebecca McBeth  
HiNZ

**Via email:** editor@hinz.org.nz

Dear Rebecca

### **Official Information Act Request - OIA 13284 Data Sharing**

On 14 December 2020, under section 12 of the Official Information Act, you requested the following information from Whanganui District Health Board (WDHB):

- Do you have a privacy officer and at what level of DHB leadership do they sit?
- Do you have a chief data officer and if so, what is their responsibility in the organisation?
- How do you gain patient consent for data sharing - ie via a consent form? (please provide a copy of the form or statement that explains how patient data is shared)
- For what purposes are you sharing patient identifiable health information within the DHB?
  - o Clinical care
  - o Analytics
  - o Quality improvement
  - o Planning
  - o Research
- Do you share patient identifiable information outside of the DHB and if so, with what other entities? ie other DHBs, PHOs, GPs, NGOs, social services. If so, what agreements do you have in place to support this?
- Do you share any personal data directly with patients? (appointment and discharge letters/ emails to patients should not be included in this definition of 'sharing personal data')  
If yes, what data do you share and via what method?
- Do you plan to let consumers access and contribute to their own health information online, via something like a patient portal, in the future?  
If so: when do you plan to implement and what info will be shared first?
- How does your organisation govern data sharing?

### **Whanganui District Health Boards response:**

- **Do you have a privacy officer and at what level of DHB leadership do they sit?**  
Yes, at tier 3 as advisory position within Patient Safety, Quality and Innovation department.
- **Do you have a chief data officer and if so, what is their responsibility in the organisation?**  
No

Chief Executive | Phone 06 348 3140 | Fax 06 345 9390



**WHANGANUI**  
DISTRICT HEALTH BOARD  
*Te Poari Hauora o Whanganui*

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

- **How do you gain patient consent for data sharing - ie via a consent form? {please provide a copy of the form or statement that explains how patient data is shared}**  
No. See attached poster which is displayed in all patient areas.
  
- **For what purposes are you sharing patient identifiable health information within the DHB?**
  - **Clinical care** - yes
  - **Analytics** - yes
  - **Quality improvement** - yes
  - **Planning** - yes
  - **Research** - no
  
- **Do you share patient identifiable information outside of the DHB and if so, with what other entities? ie other DHBs, PHOs, GPs, NGOs, social services. If so, what agreements do you have in place to support this?**  
We rely on privacy legislation when sharing information, which we share with all of the services above, in addition to the police, the coroner and the health disability commissioner.
  
- **Do you share any personal data directly with patients? {appointment and discharge letters/ emails to patients should not be included in this definition of 'sharing personal data'}**  
**If yes, what data do you share and via what method?**  
No.
  
- **Do you plan to let consumers access and contribute to their own health information online, via something like a patient portal, in the future?**  
**If so: when do you plan to implement and what info will be shared first?**  
No.
  
- **How does your organisation govern data sharing?**  
We have a data governance group and we are also guided by the office of the privacy commissioner.

Should you have any further queries about the above information, please contact our OJA co-ordinator Anne Phoenix at [anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz](mailto:anne.phoenix@wdhb.org.nz)

Yours sincerely



\\Russell Simpson  
**Chief Executive**

# YOUR HEALTH INFORMATION

## WHAT WE DO WITH IT, WHO SEES IT & WHO MAY ACCESS IT

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- We collect and keep it so we can provide you with the best possible health care.
- We keep it securely in both paper and electronic formats.
- We track who sees it.
- Who has access? Clinicians involved in your care. Managers investigating complaints and incidents. Auditors for quality assurance activities.
- We send discharge summaries and copies of clinic letters to your GP.
- Your laboratory test results, radiology results and clinical documents are stored electronically in a regional database and can be viewed by clinicians who are caring for you at any health centre in the region.
- You can request copies of your health information from the Clinical Records Department.
- If you think your health information is inaccurate, you can request a correction.
- We may disclose some of your health information to other relevant people or agencies if we think there is a risk of harm to yourself or any other person.
- We keep your health information for a minimum of ten years and we will advertise when we intend destroying it so that you may request a copy.

