
2 August 2019

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – electronic health records

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received via transfer from the Ministry of Health on 10 July seeking the following of Waitematā District Health Board (DHB):

- *I am requesting whether each respective DHB and GP have implemented an electronic health record. I have attached a template with the required information.*

On 15 July, we sought clarification of your definition of ‘electronic health record’ and of whether you require details of only work fully implemented or also work underway.

You responded that the request was intended to cover any system with the functionality to observe a patient’s records electronically, such as a portal enabling a clinician to see a patient’s record, thereby removing the need to access the physical paper record. Further, you clarified that your request was limited only to those systems already fully implemented.

In response, neither Waitematā DHB (or any DHB in New Zealand) has fully implemented a comprehensive electronic health record (EHR), although it is important to emphasise that our DHB does have good electronic capability.

The link below is to information on the Ministry of Health website assessing New Zealand’s DHBs against an international benchmark known as the EMR Adoption Model (EMRAM):

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/ehealth/digital-health-2020/digital-hospital>

Compared with other DHBs, this demonstrates that Waitematā DHB is among the country’s leaders in terms of digital maturity. This comparison is based on 2016 data, with an update currently underway. Waitematā DHB has made significant digital progress over the last three years and would expect our EMRAM to have improved over this time as a result.

Within general practice, the EHR practice management system adoption rate nationally is in excess of 99 per cent, which has been the case for more than a decade. Patient portals are available for 65 per cent of the general practices and currently 19 per cent of enrolled patients have registered to use them.

Please note that in New Zealand GP practices are separate businesses in their own right. Their contact details by district/area are available via the Healthpoint website:

<https://www.healthpoint.co.nz>

I trust that this information meets your requirements. Waitematā DHB, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-funded healthcare.

This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website from 10 working days after they have been released.

If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider this.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Bloomfield', written in a cursive style.

Stuart Bloomfield
Chief Information Officer
Waitematā District Health Board