



Waitematā

District Health Board

Best Care for Everyone

Provider Healthcare Services

North Shore Hospital Campus

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11 May 2020

[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Re: OIA request – Pathology specimens

Thank you for your Official Information Act request received on 22 March 2020 seeking information about the policy on requests from third party providers of pathology specimens for second opinions from Waitematā District Health Board (DHB).

You requested the following information:

I respectfully request your DHB's policy on second opinions requested by a third party who is a medical practitioner currently involved in the medical care of the patient from whom the pathological material was originally obtained?

Waitematā DHB's laboratory does not have a specific policy for handling third party requests. However, if the request for a second opinion comes from a third party, patient consent is required in order to send slides/blocks for further review. In these instances, the costs may have to be borne by the third party who has made the request e.g. if the request is related to a clinical trial.

If the reporting pathologist deems it necessary to seek a second opinion for diagnosis (national or international), the request is made by the DHB's surgical pathology department.

In the event that Waitematā DHB deviates from the aforementioned RCPA policy, I request an explanation for why your DHB deviates from best practice

Waitematā DHB's policy aligns with the Royal College of Pathologists of Australasia (RCPA) guidelines.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Waitematā DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community 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 consider there are good reasons why this response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider your views.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Debbie Holdsworth', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Debbie Holdsworth
Acting Director Hospital Services
Waitematā District Health Board