

OIA REQUEST

Received: 22 March 2022
Due: 21 April 2022
Response Date: 19 April 2022
Subject: Hospital Admissions

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New Zealand
Phone 07 579 8000

In response to your request under the Official Information Act, please find our response below:

Request

Please indicate what is your exact procedure for determining that hospital admissions in this current time are in fact directly due to Covid?

- 1. Are you testing people who are admitting themselves for something non-respiratory related, and if they test positive after admission for Sars Cov 2 are you listing it as a Covid admission regardless?**

Our universal testing strategy is designed to test the majority of patient admissions. This informs our isolation procedures for that patient; however, the patient is still clinically treated for their presenting complaint.

If a patient tests positive after admission, we do flag that event as being COVID-19 in the system and for infection, prevention and control purposes, however, they are still clinically treated for their presenting complaint.

This is not unique to COVID-19. If a patient develops something during their admission eg: influenza, varicella zoster, or has an incidental comorbidity at time of admission, this also forms part of the patient's admission history and would be treated if clinically indicated.

- 2. People who are admitted for something respiratory related that is later diagnosed as not Sars Cov 2, are you indicating them as covid hospitalizations if they return a positive test during admission?**

A patient's reason for admission is documented to reflect what they presented with, however, if any other condition develops during their admission, it will form part of their admission history.

The Ministry of Health have provided guidance on the clinical coding of hospital events based on ICD10 codes. Coding is a retrospective and delayed process after a patient has been discharged from hospital.

Bay of Plenty DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public understanding of how we are delivering publicly funded healthcare. This includes the proactive publication of anonymised Official Information Act responses on our website. Please note this response may be published on our website. [Official Information Act | Bay of Plenty District Health Board | Hauora a Toi | BOPDHB](#)



You have the right to request the Ombudsman investigate and review our response.
www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "DB".

DEBBIE BROWN
Senior Advisor Governance and Quality