

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

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9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10164

I refer to your email dated 7 August 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding CAMHS whanau disclosure policy when involved with a young person. Specifically:

1. When/if they disclose to family that they are assessing/treating a young person;

Disclosure of information to whanau/families occurs once permission is received from a young person over the age of 16. Where an individual is under the age of 16 and unable to exercise their rights because they are too sick or young (Health Information Privacy Code 1994 (rule 11(4)) that individuals parent or guardian receives health information.

2. Whether they require caregivers' consent for a young person to access services (if so, what occurs if whanau does not consent);

Children under 16 will need a parent or guardian to attend the appointment and give signed consent for treatment or admission. Children over the age of 16 (if deemed competent) can consent to any health treatment. (Care of the Children Act 2004, section 36)).

If whanau do not give consent, wherever possible, families will be given time and information and supportive resources such as involving extended family members, elders, church ministers, cultural support to work through the concerns or differences.

3. And whether there are additional considerations made e.g. the age of the young person, their capacity to consent, cultural considerations.

Children under the age of 16 can also consent if they are deemed competent. The "Gillick" competency is an assessment designed to ascertain if the child has the maturity and capacity to understand and make a decision in relation to the proposed treatment. The health professional determines this and

documents their decision. In practice, a child can sign their own consent, with the aim that parental consent be obtained as soon as possible.

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carolyn Gullery', with a long, sweeping underline.

Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support