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RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10145 and WCDHB 9324

I refer to your email dated 24 June 2019 sent to the Ministry of Health which they subsequently transferred to us on 10 July 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB regarding Electronic Health Records. Specifically:

- **I am researching the impact of information technology investment in health across New Zealand in regards to its impact on access and equity of access to health care. This is with the hypothesis that integrated electronic health records support and promote access to essential health care for the New Zealand population. To achieve this, I shall be taking advantage of discontinuities in the stages at which General Practices and District Health Boards have implemented electronic health records. As such, I am requesting whether each respective DHB and GP have implemented an electronic health record. (For ease of the request, I have attached an excel template with the required information).**

Canterbury DHB / West Coast DHB

Name of DHB	Is an Electronic Health Record in place?	Date of Implementation	Do GPs have access to Electronic Health Record?	Can Patients access any of/all of their Electronic Health Record?
Canterbury DHB	Yes ¹	Multiple ²	Yes ³	Yes/No ⁴
West Coast DHB	Yes ¹	Multiple ²	Yes ³	Yes/No ⁴
Name of General Practice	Is an Electronic Health Record in place?	Date of Implementation	Can Hospital Electronic Health Records be accessed?	Can Patients access any of/all of their Electronic Health Record?
Canterbury General Practices	Yes ⁵	Multiple ²	Yes ⁶	Yes/No ⁴
West Coast General Practices	Yes ⁵	Multiple ²	Yes ⁶	Yes/No ⁴

Notes:

We can't provide answers in the exact format requested given the complexity of the question and the array of underlying electronic systems.

¹ The patient's health records are held in a number of electronic systems which are purpose designed for different services. Consolidation of patient management systems is currently underway across the South Island with South Island Patient Information Care System (SIPICS) progressively replacing legacy/current systems. In addition clinical information is captured in clinical systems, predominantly Health Connect South, however there are a number of other supporting systems which provide for specific services or functions. Some elements of the patient's records remain in paper format (however these are decreasing).

² Each of the systems has been implemented at different times over the last 25 to 30 years.

³ The general practice clinical teams in Canterbury and West Coast (and across the South Island) have access to a shared electronic record which contains access to clinical information from providers of a person's care. This includes hospital, diagnostic, pharmacy and other community provider information. This access is controlled and audited for clinical service provision. The information available includes any electronic shared care plans (acute, personalised or advance).

⁴ All patients have the right to access their own health records which will be provided by the appropriate clinical team. However, this access is manually provided and the patient does not have direct access to the electronic health record.

⁵ General practice has implemented electronic health records over the last 25 years. Each practice makes decisions on the type of system they use and when they have moved to an electronic record. As a system we have ensured general practice patient management systems are able to access the shared electronic health record through a technological integration process.

⁶ The DHB hospital teams are able to see general practice, diagnostic, pharmacy and other community provider information. This access is controlled and audited for clinical service provision. The information available includes any electronic shared care plans (acute, personalised or advance).

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 and West Coast DHB websites.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support