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RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10771

I refer to your email dated 6 December 2021 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding the use of D-dimer tests by the Canterbury DHB. Specifically:

Medsafe has identified that blood clots as a safety signal following vaccination with the Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine. The Medsafe website states that this is being monitored.

Your statement (above) appears to misread the Medsafe advice for the Pfizer Comirnaty vaccine which is currently being monitored by Medsafe. Medsafe's recommendation is for appropriate reporting by health professionals of any adverse events following immunisation. For information on the monitoring being done by Medsafe, please contact them directly on their website <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/safety/Alerts/COVID-19-vaccine-blood-clots.asp>.

- 1. How is the CDHB monitoring this safety signal? Please include any correspondence, advice, or policies for monitoring blood clots following COVID vaccination.**
- 2. Does the CDHB have a policy regarding the use of D-dimer tests for patients presenting following COVID vaccination? If not, why not?**
- 3. How many D-dimer tests have the CDHB undertaken on patients in 2019, 2020 and 2021?**
- 4. Is there another test or procedure that the CDHB is using to assist Medsafe in monitoring the occurrence of blood clots following COVID vaccinations?**
 - a. If so, please include details of this policy including correspondence, advice regarding the policy, and data regarding the use and outcomes of any such testing/monitoring.**
- 5. How many patients have been found to have blood clots in 2019, 2020, 2021? Please include data on age and mortality if possible. Please include data on Covid vaccination status if possible.**

The Pfizer vaccine is not associated with an increased risk of blood clots, hence no special measures are warranted. Canterbury DHB does not have a policy for D-dimer testing for patients presenting following COVID vaccination.

D-dimer testing is part of the pathway for any patient with suspected blood clots. Pulmonary embolism is part of the differential diagnosis for many presentations and D-dimer testing is widely used at Canterbury DHB.

Because of the extensive vaccination programme a proportion of patients presenting to health care services have had a recent vaccination. In this respect they are treated similarly to other patients

Any potential adverse effects are reported the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) by CDHB staff. CARM is hosted on the website for The New Zealand Pharmacovigilance Centre (NZPhvC) <https://nzphvc.otago.ac.nz/>

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



Ralph La Salle
Senior Manager, OIAs
Canterbury DHB and West Coast DHB