



19 January 2022

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear [REDACTED]

Official Information Act Request

Thank you for your request dated 24 November 2021 pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982. This was received as a transfer from the Ministry of Health to Waikato District Health Board on 22 December 2021. You have requested the following information:

What are the guidelines/procedures for patients repeatedly admitted to Emergency Department with severe epigastric pain and upper right and left quadrant pain

We do not have a specific guideline for this as there are at least a dozen life-threatening conditions (and twice as many non-critical) covered in the presenting complaint, so management is determined by the assessment and likely underlying condition. Treatment for specific conditions will have a guideline under the specialty referred to if a differential diagnosis is found.

However, patients who we identify as presenting to the Emergency Department repeatedly are referred to our complex patient group, who try to formulate a management plan for them which will expedite their care.

Waikato DHB supports the open disclosure of information to assist community understanding of how we are delivering publically 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.

Yours sincerely

Christine Lowry
Executive Director - Hospital and Community Services
Waikato District Health Board