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14 March 2019

Response to a request for official information

Thank you for your request for official information received 18 February 2019 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by transfer of the part that relates to community pharmacy dispensed anti-depressant medication to Technical Advisory Services (TAS).

- *I would like a copy of any and all information totaling the number of patients prescribed antidepressants in 2018. Please include the age and gender of the patient(s).*

In regard to Inpatient and DHB pharmacy dispensed anti-depressant medication, NMH notes:

- Not all of these medicines are prescribed solely for the purpose of treating depression
- Use of these medicines by inpatients represents a subset of the patient group that has already been captured by TAS.

NMH responds that the volume of these medicines consumed in hospital cannot be attributed on an individual patient basis due to the processes within the hospital setting. We do not have a reporting system to electronically capture the number of patients, including inpatients, who are prescribed antidepressants, and it would take a significant amount of time and resources to manually go through individual patient files. Accordingly NMH declines to respond to this part of your request under section 18(f) as *'the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation and research'*.

This response has been provided under the Official Information Act 1982. You have the right to seek an investigation by the Ombudsman of this decision. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or free phone 0800 802 602.

If you have any questions about this decision please feel free to email our OIA Coordinator OIArequest@nmdhb.govt.nz. Please note that this letter (with your personal information removed), or an edited version of this letter, may be published on the Nelson Marlborough Health website.

Yours sincerely



Dr Peter Bramley
Chief Executive

cc: Ministry of Health via email: SectorOIA@moh.govt.nz

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board