

31 May 2022

Response to a request for official information

Thank you for your request for official information as transferred from the Ministry of Health and received 29 April 2022 by Nelson Marlborough Health (NMH)¹, followed by the necessary extension of time 27 May 2022, where you seek the following information.

1. *“If the treatment of Remdesivir and ventilators has been or are being used as a treatment for covid patients in hospital?”*

NMH response:

Remdezivir is part of the treatment algorithm found on the NZ Ministry of Health website <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-health-professionals/covid-19-advice-all-health-professionals>

Ventilation (i.e. placing a breathing tube and using a ventilator to support respiration) depends on how sick the patient is from a breathing point of view. Medicines to treat COVID-19, and the complications of that infection sit side by side with ventilation and help treat the underlying disease. Ventilation does not depend on whether a person has received remdezivir or not.

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 I trust this information meets your requirements. NMH, like other agencies across the state sector, supports the open disclosure of information to assist the public's understanding of how we are delivering publicly-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. If you feel that there are good reasons why your response should not be made publicly available, we will be happy to consider.

Yours sincerely



Lexie O'Shea
Chief Executive

¹ Nelson Marlborough District Health Board