



Te Tāhū Hauora
Health Quality & Safety
Commission

28 May 2024

By email: [REDACTED]

Tēnā koe

Re: Official information request for information regarding advance care plan for tangata whaiora

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) which was transferred to Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission (Te Tāhū Hauora) from Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand) on 6 May 2024.

Each part of your request is addressed in turn below. Background information on advance care planning and definitions are included as an appendix.

1. Do all tangata whai ora/majority have ACPs?

We do not have national data on the number of advance care plans submitted to mental health services or health services more generally. Our programme has been engaging with Health New Zealand on including advance care plans as part of the unified health IT system to address this.

2. Do they complete them upon admission or subsequently?

We do not have any national data on this. However, the 'My Advance Care Plan and Guide' has been designed to be completed in the community, while the person has time to consider their preferences and discuss these with family and whānau, and health professionals, if they wish. They can then bring this plan with them to an admission. However, a person could complete an advance care plan at any point in time.

3. Do they nominate a support person or facilitator or do most rely on whānau?

We do not have any national data on this for advance care plans.

4. Do District Inspectors play any role in the ACP procedure e.g., as intermediary should disputes occur?

The Ministry of Health Manatū Hauora is responsible for defining the role of District Inspectors. Information on this would need to be sought from them. The current guidelines on the role of District Inspectors can be found on their website

<https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/guidelines-role-and-function-district-inspectors>

5. Have ACPs strengthened patient rights?

That is the purpose behind them, but we do not have any national data to quantify this. Southern District has evaluation data following the introduction of mental health advance preference statements in their region, so may be able to assist.

6. Do RCs feel threatened by ACPs and/or they do they just disregard them?

We do not have any data to answer this question.

7. Is a discussion between patient and RC or other appropriate clinician mandatory/advised before the APC is completed?

Support from a clinician is not a requirement to complete an advance care plan, however, it can be very helpful. It can strengthen the process, as a clinician on the receiving end would have increased confidence that the wishes or preferences and any advance directives were well informed and meet validity criteria, respectively.

8. Could you scan me a copy of the My Advance Care Plan template?

A copy of the Advance Care Plan (PDF version) is attached. This can also be found at <https://www.myacp.org.nz/your-plan>

9. Do patient use lawyers for their ACPs and if so who pays?

We do not hold national data on how many patients use lawyers to assist them with advance care plans, therefore are unable to provide any information about this. However, patients could use lawyers if they wish but it is not required to make an advance care plan or advance directive valid.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that Te Tāhū Hauora publishes some of its official information responses on its website, after the response is sent to the requester. The responses published are those that are considered to have a high level of public interest. We will not publish your name, address or contact details. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact us at info@hqsc.govt.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Peter Jansen
Chief executive

Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission

Attachments:

1. Background information on advance care planning and definitions
2. Copy of Advance Care Plan

