

23 November 2022

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Official Information Act request OIA 1344 Endoscopy Policy for Spouses

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request of 19 October 2022, for Endoscopy Policies relating to patient's spouses. Specifically:

We request all policies and laws/regulations in effect on 17th October 2022 regarding how patient's spouses are allowed to support the patient by being physically present with the patient in each of these scenarios regarding an Endoscopy Procedure.

- 1) *In the interview room with the patient*
- 2) *in the hospital beds awaiting an endoscopy but outside the surgery/endoscopy procedure room*
- 3) *Inside the endoscopy procedure room itself when the procedure is happening to the patient*
- 4) *In the same hospital beds as in point 2 used for observation of the patient after the procedure*

Response

The following sections marked* are excerpts from our Policy on Support Person in Operating Rooms, Procedure Rooms and Endoscopy Suite, and our Gastroenterology Operational Policy. We have used these excerpts to answer your questions.

1) *In the interview room with the patient*

*The interview room is located in the admissions area. Here the admitting nurse will clerk, consent and (if necessary) obtain intravenous access in the patient.

Support people are allowed in the interview room.

2) *In the hospital beds awaiting an endoscopy but outside the surgery/endoscopy procedure room*

*Depending on the procedure to be carried out, a patient will be asked to wait on the bed or change into a gown then wait on their bed.

Support people are generally not allowed while a patient is awaiting procedure, except in special circumstances as noted below.

3) *Inside the endoscopy procedure room itself when the procedure is happening to the patient*

*Decisions regarding the admittance of a support person in the endoscopy procedure room are at the discretion of the Endoscopist. This decision will be made after consideration of the clinical condition of the patient, and only one support person will be allowed entry.

4) *In the same hospital beds as in point 2 used for observation of the patient after the procedure*

*Decisions regarding the admittance of a support person in the recovery area following a procedure or during an infusion, will be at the discretion of the Charge Nurse Manager (CNM) or Senior Nurse. Only one support person will be allowed into the recovery area, and this decision will be made after considering the clinical condition of the patient and the presence of other patients in the recovery area. Care must be taken not to compromise the post-procedure recovery process, procedure considerations, and privacy of all patients in the recovery area.

Exceptional Circumstances

*While endoscopy staff recognise the role of support people and extended family/whānau, support people (adults) are only permitted into the endoscopy procedure room or recovery area in exceptional circumstances, or at the discretion of the Endoscopist, Charge Nurse Manager (CNM) or Senior Nurse.

In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for a support person to be present with a patient in the operating room, procedure or endoscopy room for the induction of general anaesthesia, where the benefits of support would outweigh the risk.

*This could include the following cases where the patient may:

- be under 16 years of age
- have an intellectual disability
- be extremely frightened or anxious
- require an interpreter (see note below)
- be in police or prison service custody

*In every case, once the patient is anaesthetised, the support person is required to leave the operating room, procedure room or endoscopy room. A dedicated staff member needs to be allocated the task of escorting the support person out.

Note: If the family member has to be used as an interpreter, we generally allow them in the procedure room up to the point where sedation is about to be given.

We have attached the relevant policies as requested:

- a) Support Person in Operating Rooms, Procedure Rooms and Endoscopy Suite
- b) Gastroenterology Operational Policy

If you have any questions, you can contact us at hnzOIA@health.govt.nz.

If you are not happy with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman. Information about how to do this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by phoning 0800 802 602.

As this information may be of interest to other members of the public, Te Whatu Ora may proactively release a copy of this response on our website. All requester data, including your name and contact details, will be removed prior to release. The released response will be made available on our website.

Nāku iti noa, nā



Dr Michael Shepherd
Interim District Director
Te Toka Tumai Auckland

Enclosures:

Attachment 1 Support Person in Operating Rooms, Procedure Rooms and Endoscopy Suite

Attachment 2 Gastroenterology Operational Policy

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Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa

New Zealand Government