



Notification Of Infectious Diseases Procedure

Procedure Number
WCDHB-IC-0001

Version Nos:
5

1. Purpose

This Procedure is performed as a means of complying with the requirements of the Health Act 1956 and Tuberculosis Act 1948 with regard to the notification to the Medical Officer of Health by medical practitioners of any notifiable disease they suspect or diagnose.

2. Application

This Procedure is to be followed by all staff throughout West Coast District Health Board.

3. Definitions

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Notifiable Disease is taken to mean any disease specified in either the First Schedule or Second Schedule of the Health Act 1956, or in the Tuberculosis Act 1948.

4. Responsibilities

For the purposes of this Procedure:

Medical Practitioners shall:

- notify the Medical Officer of Health of any Notifiable Disease they suspect or clinically diagnose.
- inform the WCDHB Infection Control

5. Resources Required

This Procedure requires:

- First and Second Schedules of the Health Act 1956
- Tuberculosis Act 1948
- Notification of Notifiable Disease Form

6. Process

- 1.00 Under the Health Act 1956 and Tuberculosis Act 1948 medical practitioners are required to notify the Medical Officer of Health of any Notifiable Disease they suspect or clinically diagnose.
- 1.01 Notifications provide the basis for surveillance and control of communicable and some non-communicable diseases in New Zealand.
- 1.02 Upon identifying a suspected disease (that is contained in the First or Second Schedule of the Health Act 1956), or clinically diagnosing a disease (that is contained in the First or Second Schedule of the Health Act 1956), the responsible medical practitioner is required to notify directly by telephone the Medical Officer of Health and also fax to them the Notification of Notifiable Disease Form (as per the requirements of the Health Act 1956).
- 1.03 Upon identifying a suspected case of tuberculosis, or clinically diagnosing tuberculosis, the responsible medical practitioner is required to notify directly by telephone the Medical Officer of Health and also fax to them the Notification of Notifiable Disease Form (as per the requirements of Tuberculosis Act 1948).



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- 1.04 Notification of a Notifiable Disease can occur without the consent of the patient, as the legal requirement conferred by the Health Act 1956 and the Tuberculosis Act 1948 for notification is allowable under the Privacy Act 1993/Health Information Privacy Code 1994.
- 1.05 The WCDHB Clinical Nurse Specialist Infection Control is then to be notified (as soon as is practicable) that a patient with a suspected notifiable disease has been admitted to a WCDHB Facility. The WCDHB Clinical Nurse Specialist Infection Control is then to notify (as soon as is practicable) the relevant General Manager that a patient with a suspected notifiable disease has been admitted to a WCDHB Facility, and what actions have been taken and/or are planned.
- 1.06 Appropriate treatment is to be initiated as per the requirements of the *WCDHB Management Of Patient With Suspected Notifiable Disease Procedure*.

7. Precautions And Considerations

- ➔ Medical practitioners have a legal requirement to notify the Medical Officer of Health of any notifiable disease they suspect or clinically diagnose.
- ➔ Notification is to occur using the Notification of Notifiable Disease Form
- ➔ The WCDHB Clinical Nurse Specialist Infection Control is to be notified (as soon as is practicable) that a patient with a suspected notifiable disease has been admitted to a WCDHB Facility.
- ➔ The WCDHB Clinical Nurse Specialist Infection Control is to notify (as soon as is practicable) the relevant General Manager that a patient with a suspected notifiable disease has been admitted to a WCDHB Facility, and what actions have been taken/planned.

8. References

Ministry of Health Communicable Disease Control Manual

9. Related Documents

WCDHB Infection Control Procedure Manual

Revision History	Version:	5
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