

18 June 2010

Professor Mike Ardagh
National Clinical Director of ED Services
Target Champion, Shorter Stays in ED Health Target

By email: emergencydepartments@moh.govt.nz

Dear Professor Ardagh

Draft guidance paper for New Zealand Emergency Departments regarding the interface with primary health care

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft “Guidance paper for New Zealand Emergency Departments regarding the interface with primary health care” (the paper).

I commend the Shorter Stays in Emergency Department team on producing an excellent paper. The paper provides clear guidance for those responsible for developing and delivering hospital emergency department (ED) services. We are strongly supportive of the clear guidance that ‘triaging away’ or denial of care at an ED is not acceptable practice, and of the emphasis on information sharing with primary health care. As noted in the paper, good communication, and a strong interface, between EDs and primary health care is essential. HDC cases have highlighted the importance of this interface (eg. Opinions 07HDC10767, 07HDC07977).

Again, congratulations on an excellent guidance paper.

Yours sincerely

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Chief Legal Advisor