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28 June 2022

s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

By email: s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]
Ref: H202207092

Dear s 9(2)(a) [REDACTED]

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your further request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 29 May 2022 for information relating to data held on prescriptions issued to doctors. In the context of your earlier request (H202205564), please find a response to each part of your request below.

"Can you please outline what controls are in place for Schedule 3 / Class C controlled drugs; are they also be captured by the two systems: "ProClaim" and the "Electronic Prescription Monitoring" referred to?

Proclaim includes information relating to the dispensing of prescriptions (including class C controlled drugs) where the supply is subsidised or funded; Electronic Prescription Monitoring does not include information on the dispensing of class C controlled drugs.

I asked in the 24 April request whether an instance would be "picked up on". I should have been more clear: is the dataset regularly reviewed to proactively pick up on instances, or is it only ex post as a result of concerns or complaints (your letter suggests the latter referring to the data being able to be "used to review specific issues"). If you would be so kind as to clarify.

Given the number of prescribers (primarily doctors but also nurse practitioners, midwives and dentists in both public and private settings), and the volumes of pharmaceuticals dispensed, the database is predominantly used to investigate concerns that are brought to the Ministry's attention.

In your second to last paragraph, your letter states: "Within the datasets, individual patients are not identified in respect of their status as a prescriber (sic)". Were you referring there to the patient (i.e. the prescribee) or the medical professional (i.e. prescriber)? If individual prescribers are unable to be identified, how can the datasets have the ability to review their prescribing practices?"

I can confirm that both the individual patient and the prescriber are identifiable.

I trust this satisfies your request. 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.

Yours sincerely



Chris James
Group Manager
Medsafe