

25 March 2022

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H202204067

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) on 17 March 2022 for:

"I would like to know, do the letters DNR in my NHI stand for, mean, DO NOT RESUSCITATE. Are these letters an instruction to the ambulance drivers not to resuscitate me should I become unresponsive from a medical event?? By ambulance, fire, medical personnel."

A National Health Index (NHI) number is seven characters long. The first three characters are alphabetic and the last four are numeric. The assignment of the first six characters is arbitrary and bears no relationship to the individual to whom the NHI number is assigned. The last character is a numeric check digit (0-9). More information about how NHI numbers are created can be found in the HISO10046 Consumer Health Identity Standard at:

www.health.govt.nz/publication/hiso-100462021-consumer-health-identity-standard#:~:text=This%20standard%20is%20a%20dataset,by%20New%20Zealand%20health%20providers

This document is a data set specification for the collection and representation of personal identity and demographic information recorded in the NHI system, practice management systems, patient administration and in clinical information systems as used by New Zealand health providers. The standard does not cover clinical information.

All NHI numbers start with three letters that have no specific meaning. Given the huge number of three letter abbreviations used around the world, it is inevitable that some of these letters will be the same as abbreviations used elsewhere. I can assure you that the three letters in your NHI number do not relate to any other use, and I can state categorically that "DNR" in your NHI does not stand for "do not resuscitate."

I trust this information fulfils 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.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal tail.

Gaynor Bradfield
**Manager, Office of the Deputy Director-General
Data and Digital**