

# INTERHOSPITAL TRANSFER OF THE ACUTELY UNWELL MENTAL HEALTH PATIENT

## A TEAM APPROACH

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# A COMPLEX CLINICAL SCENARIO...

- A unique area of healthcare that transects Psychiatry, Critical Care, Anaesthetics and Aeromedicine
- Previously no formal or consistent pathway
- Development of a procedure -2022

# Te Mauri o Rongo - NZ Health Charter



## Wairuatanga

Working with heart, the strong sense of purpose and commitment to service that health workers bring to their mahi.



## Rangatiratanga

As organisations we support our people to lead. We will know our people; we will grow those around us and be accountable with them in contributing to Pae Ora for all.



## Whanaungatanga

We are a team, and together a team of teams. Regardless of our role, we work together for a common purpose. We look out for each other and keep each other safe. "Whiria te tangāta" - we will weave our people together.



## Te Korowai Āhuru

A cloak which seeks to provide safety and comfort to the workforce.

# CHRISTCHURCH TO KENEPURU (452 KM)

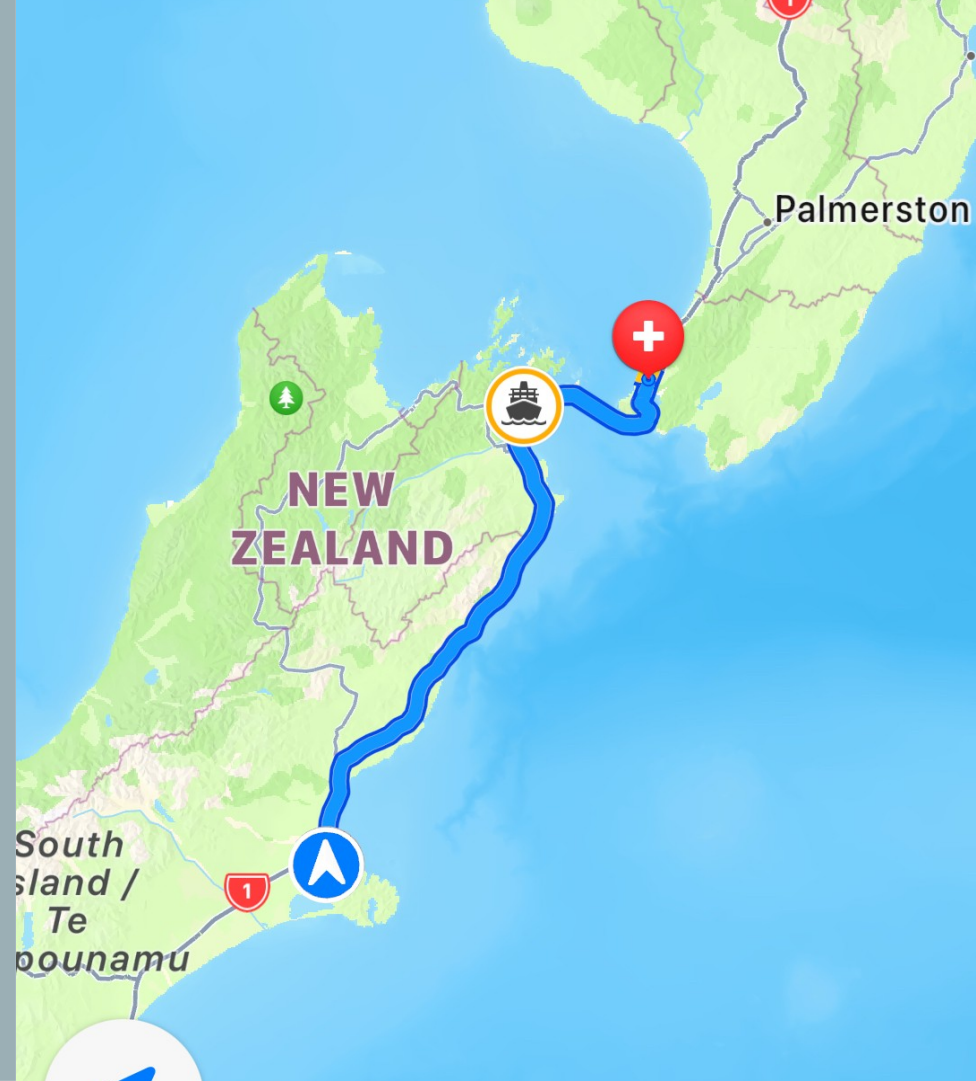
16 year old male

New presentation of  
psychosis

History of violence

Community mental health  
order

Police involvement



# CHATHAM ISLAND TO CHRISTCHURCH (876KM)

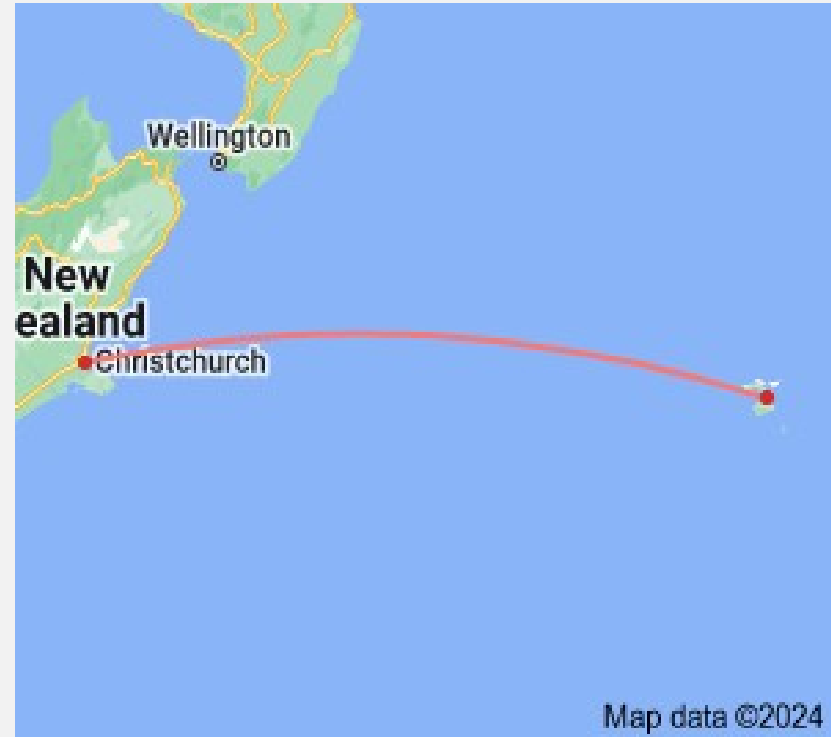
40 year old female

Schizophrenia

Paranoid

Barricaded in house

Assessment difficult



# GENERAL ANAESTHETIC





Air Retrieval / Intensive Care



Corporate legal



Mental health services



Aircraft provider/pilots



Road ambulance/ PTS

SHARED  
MENTAL  
MODEL

# AIR RETRIEVAL SERVICE/ INTENSIVE CARE

- Co-ordination process
- Talking directly to clinician responsible
- Asking the right questions

# MISSION CO-ORDINATION DECISIONS



General  
anaesthesia for  
transport



Appropriate  
skill mix



Priority and  
category of  
mission



Transfer plan  
checklist  
commenced

# STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

- Position statement on the post-anaesthesia care unit (ANZCA, 2020)
- Appropriate location, staff & equipment
- Clarity around 'duty of care'

# HOSPITAL LEGAL

Support with legal and ethical questions

Interpret the Health and Disability Services, Consumers Rights Act (1996)

Right 7.4

# MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Patient status under mental health act
- Location
- Agitation/violence
- Medication regime
- Duly Appointed Officer (DAO)

# MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

- Availability of PACU/Recovery area
- Family, cultural & spiritual beliefs
- Principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Assessment prior to transfer

# AIRCRAFT PROVIDER

Aircraft & pilot  
availability

Communication

Medical passengers

Weather?



# ROAD AMBULANCE

- Patient transfer vehicle - limited resource
- Robust communication
- Support appreciated

# OUTCOME

- Ongoing need for these transfers
- Establishment of positive working relationships
- To date no adverse events

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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