Annual National Review of ICPSA well under way

The third meeting of the National Annual Agreement Review of the Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement (ICPSA) took place on 19 July 2019 in Wellington. The National Annual Agreement Review considers any changes to the nationally consistent parts of the contract to take effect from 1 October each year, including recognition of cost pressures. Any ICPSA contract-holder or their representative can attend.

Participants at the third meeting were DHBs, the Ministry of Health, the Pharmacy Guild, Green Cross Health, Nirvana Pharmacy Group, Pharmacy Partners and Countdown Pharmacy. Also attending the open session of the meeting was the chair of the DHBs’ Pharmacy Services Expert Advisory Group, and representatives from the Pharmaceutical Society and the Pharmacy Council.

Participants agreed:

• to jointly progress discussions about ways to ensure greater equity of health outcomes
• to develop an impact analysis on the implications of a proposal for simplifying payment processes for pharmacies
• to develop a business case for supply chain improvements by December 2019
• to progress updates to the Pharmacy Procedures Manual
• to progress work with other parties on achieving efficiencies in prescription quality, uncollected medicines, pack sizing and repackaging, and simplifying and digitising manual claims and reporting processes

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If you have any suggestions for future topics, please drop us a line at: pharmacy@tas.health.nz

In this panui:

• Annual National Review of ICPSA well under way
• August ICPSA payments for contract-holders
• New faces on DHBs’ Pharmacy Services Expert Advisory Group
• Six MPA members undertaking doctorate degrees in 2019
• Community Pharmacies play key role in meeting demand for funded flu shots this winter
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Article continued on following page...
Annual National Review of ICPSA well under way Continued from front page...

- to ensure transparency of the ongoing Schedule 1 Review process and timeline
- to progress with development of a webinar on local services commissioning to ensure community pharmacies and DHB Portfolio Managers share a common understanding of what is involved

DHBs, the Ministry of Health and the five provider representatives discussed in the closed session potential variations to the national parts of the ICPSA to take effect 1 October 2019, including recognition of cost pressures. These discussions are continuing with urgency this month. Agreed recommendations will then be considered by DHB General Managers Planning and Funding who will make recommendations to DHB Chief Executives for decisions.

What this means for ICPSA contract-holders
If any contract variations are approved by DHB Chief Executives, all contract-holders will be offered the variation to their existing contract by their local DHBs in August – September, to take effect 1 October 2019. If contract-holders do not sign a variation, their existing contract will remain in force, because ICPSA is ‘evergreen’ – it has no termination date.

Publication of minutes and papers 19 July meeting
Meeting papers and minutes will be published within the next few weeks, and we will let you know when that occurs.

New faces on DHBs’ Pharmacy Services Expert Advisory Group

DHBs have appointed two new provider members to the 20 DHBs’ Pharmacy Services Expert Advisory Group. The two new appointees are Bronwen Shepherd and David Holt, who were selected by DHB General Managers Planning and Funding following an Expression of Interest process run by the DHBs.

Bronwen and David are both practising pharmacists and pharmacy owners. Bronwen is currently Pharmacy Business Development Manager at Green Cross Health and director of four pharmacies in Wellington, while David is a director of Pharmacy Solutions Limited which owns five pharmacies in Wairarapa and Porirua. Both have extensive experience helping a wide range of pharmacy and health sector bodies develop and implement strategic, innovative new approaches to services.

Meanwhile, Cameron Monteith has stepped down from membership of the EAG due to other commitments, and is being replaced by Jason Wright.

The full membership list of the EAG can be found on the TAS website under Membership here.
Jo Hikaka (Ngāruahine)
School of Pharmacy, University of Auckland

Jo’s doctoral work focuses on developing pharmacist-facilitated medicines reviews service for community-dwelling Māori older adults. A service model has been developed based on information from a systematic review and interviews with Māori older adults, as well as health professionals and Waitematā DHB stakeholders. This service model will be tested in a feasibility study. Jo enjoys the ability to apply her clinical knowledge and experience from working in Older Adult medicine in the research setting, and has enjoyed working with and learning from a diverse range of people.

Lisa Kremer (Kāi Tahu/ Kāti Mamoe/Waitaha)
School of Pharmacy, University of Otago

Lisa’s research focuses on premature infants and the need for some to require eye checks to test for retinopathy of prematurity. Untreated retinopathy of prematurity can lead to permanent blindness. Phenylephrine and cyclopentolate are eye drops that are commonly used to dilate the pupil so the ophthalmologist can view the retina. However a survey of New Zealand and Australian neonatal units has shown that some units are using eye drops that are equal to, or more than what an adult would be prescribed. With the support from a grant from Curekids, a large, multicentre, randomised controlled trial will be rolled out to investigate the efficacy and safety of low dose or very low dose microdrop administration of phenylephrine and cyclopentolate.

Nora- Jayne Parore (Ngāti Whatua/Ngāpuhi)
Health Services Research Centre, Victoria University

Nora commenced the Doctor of Health (DHlth) professional doctorate programme in 2019. Her research will investigate Māori health, primary health care, health policy and service development. Nora also currently works as a Māori Research Fellow in the Health Services Research Centre and as a community pharmacist in Whanganui.
Robert Haua (Ngāi Te Rangi)
School of Pharmacy, University of Auckland

The topic of Robert’s doctorate is titled: “Evaluating Models of Pharmacist Integration into General Practice in New Zealand.” Through mixed qualitative and quantitative methods, this work aims to understand where and how pharmacists are currently working within general practices throughout NZ, what does and doesn’t work, and what a practical and sustainable model looks like to stakeholders. Robert hopes to promote the pharmacist as a valuable addition to the general practice team, being the medicines expert who can improve outcomes for those patients living with complex and long-term conditions.

Bevan Clayton-Smith (Ngati Maniapoto - Ngati Peehi, Ngati Rora, Ngati Kinohaku)
Research Centre for Maori Health and Development, Massey University

Bevan’s PhD, titled “The Meaning and Contribution of Prescribed Medicines Within the Lives of Older Māori”. This research will enquire into how older Māori make sense of their prescribed medicines, uncovering their meaning and contribution, reflecting the diversity of medicine experiences and management in relation to their health and well-being, everyday life and future ageing requirements. Another aim is uncovering structural issues within health systems and services responsible for providing prescribed medicines and related services to older Māori. The process of ‘making sense’ will be guided by a Māori-centred research analytical approach.

Leanne Te Karu (Muaūpoko/ Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangi)
Department of General Practice, University of Auckland

Leanne is a Doctoral candidate at the Department of General Practice, University of Auckland. The title of her PhD topic is, “Optimal Medication Therapy in Māori: a case study of gout using a mixed methods approach.” Leanne Te Karu works as a pharmacist prescriber as well as having a number of national advisory roles.
**Community pharmacies play key role in meeting demand for funded flu shots this winter**

As of 17 July 2019, 97,030 influenza vaccines had been distributed to pharmacies since the Flu Vaccination season officially began on 1 April, 2019 (data supplied by Ministry of Health). Of these, 40,806 were administered to patients eligible to receive a funded vaccine. This is more than double the total number of funded vaccines administered in community pharmacies throughout 2018 (19,936). To help meet demand, an additional 55,000 doses of influenza vaccine FluQuadri was sourced by the Ministry of Health and PHARMAC for delivery to New Zealand from early July.

**Inaugural NZ Primary Healthcare Awards announced**

The inaugural New Zealand Primary Healthcare Awards/He Tohu Mauri Ora, were recently announced by co-hosts The Health Media Ltd, and the Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand.

The awards have evolved from the longstanding Pharmacy Awards, and organisers say they open the field to reward innovation, collaboration and successful outcomes for patients throughout primary care.

Nominations and entries are invited for 20 categories covering pharmacy, general practice, nursing, practice management and industry suppliers. The 20 categories will include three awards specifically for pharmacy – Community Pharmacy of the Year, Community Pharmacist of the Year and Community Pharmacy Technician of the year. Many other awards celebrating collaboration and excellence will be open to pharmacy staff.

- Entries close in November and the awards ceremony will be held in Auckland on 29 February, 2020.
- Further information will become available via the NZPH Awards website (nzphawards.co.nz)

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**Whakapā mai/Contact Us**

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*The Community Pharmacy Services Programme is facilitated by TAS on behalf of all 20 District Health Boards in New Zealand.*