

Rongoā

The newsletter of the DHBs' Community Pharmacy Services programme



Paenga-whāwhā – April 2019 | Panui 7

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Tena koutou katoa. Anei nga pitopito korero o te panui tua whitu o Rongoā. Welcome to the seventh edition of Rongoā – the monthly newsletter (panui) of the DHBs' Community Pharmacy Services programme.

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

Therapeutic Products Bill consultation closes 5pm, Thursday 18 April

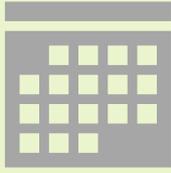
The pharmacy sector, along with many other key stakeholders have up until 18 April to have their say on the draft Therapeutic Products Bill. The legislation is set to replace the Medicines Act 1981 and its regulations. The Ministry of Health has created an online public consultation tool to help people to understand the draft Bill and to seek feedback. A section with particular relevance to pharmacies and pharmacists includes consultation questions such as:

- What type of pharmacy distribution and supply arrangements would you like to see enabled in the future? Do the current pharmacy licensing requirements create any other barriers to the development and delivery of innovative pharmacist services involving medicines?
- Which option do you support? *Option 1: Strengthened accountability through pharmacist ownership and effective control (including the five pharmacy limit)* or *Option 2: Open ownership with licence requirements targeted at pharmacist control of quality systems and practices within the pharmacy.*

After consultation closes, the Ministry will analyse the feedback and publish a summary of this analysis on its website. The Ministry will then provide advice to the Government on the overall outcomes of the consultation and seek approval for any major changes in policy identified. They will then work with the Parliamentary Counsel Office to amend the Bill, as necessary. The Bill would then be introduced to Parliament. Once introduced, the Bill would follow the standard parliamentary process. Following the first reading, it would be referred to a select committee (expected to be the Health Select Committee).

Click here to go to the [Therapeutic Products Bill Online Consultation Tool](#)

Click here for information and all sector presentations about the [draft Therapeutic Products Bill](#)



April ICPSA payments for contract-holders

Claim/Batch Payments: April 5, April 12, April 23, April 29

Case Mix Service Fees: April 1

Monthly LTC Service Fees: April 9

Additional Professional Advisory Services (APAS) Payment : April 15

For the full 12 month calendar, download the [ICPSA Payment Calendar here](#).

Additional Professional Advisory Services (APAS) Payment

The first Additional Professional Advisory Services (APAS) Payment for the April-June quarter will take place on 15 April. This payment recognises and values the clinical services pharmacists provide that are not specifically linked to dispensing a medicine. Pharmacies are not required to report differently, or make a claim to receive this payment. You will receive payment information from the Ministry of Health following your payment, as usual. For more information about how individual pharmacy payments are calculated, please refer to the [APAS Fact Sheet](#). If you are a contract-holder and have any queries about the payment, please talk to your local DHB Pharmacy Portfolio Manager.

Second meeting held for ICPSA National Annual Agreement Review

The second meeting for the National Annual Agreement Review of the Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement (ICPSA) took place on 28 March 2019 in Wellington. Participants were District Health Board and Ministry of Health representatives, and five provider representative organisations – Countdown, Green Cross Health, Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand, Pharmacy Partners, and Nirvana Pharmacy Group. Also attending the meeting was the chair of the DHBs' Pharmacy Services Expert Advisory Group, and representatives from the Pharmaceutical Society and the Pharmacy Council.

The second meeting continued the positive and collaborative approach set when the Review began in December. Participants agreed:

- the need for ongoing conversations about ways to ensure greater equity of health outcomes
- all parties must work on improving the quality of pharmacist services, acknowledging the importance of sector leadership in this area.
- to identify which identified efficiencies can be delivered in 2019/20, and beyond
- work on the supply chain will continue
- work will be undertaken on options for harmonising and simplifying payment processes for pharmacies
- review of Schedule 1 of the ICPSA would be an open and inclusive process, involving provider representative organisations and key pharmacy stakeholders
- joint local commissioning training for DHBs and local contract-holders will be getting underway

Initial discussions were held on a range of cost pressures, with some provider representatives outlining what they consider are reasonable cost pressure adjustments. DHBs will prepare a response.

Minutes of the meeting will be published on the TAS website as soon as possible. Any changes to the Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement arising from the National Annual Agreement Review will take effect from 1 October 2019.

More information about the National Annual Agreement Review process can be found [here](#).

2019 Influenza Immunisation Programme begins



On 1 April, the Annual Influenza Immunisation Programme started and will run until 31 December. Influenza is a significant public health issue in New Zealand, with 10-20% of the population infected.

Many community pharmacies provide purchased influenza vaccination to adults and children aged 13 years or older. Some community pharmacies also provide funded influenza vaccination to pregnant women, and people aged 65 years or older. Detailed information on the Annual Influenza Immunisation Programme is available through the National Influenza Specialist Group.

**For more resources and information for health professionals go to <https://www.influenza.org.nz/>
Download the 2019 Flu Kit Booklet [here](#).**

Whakakotahi 2019 projects announced

Three of the eight projects selected for the Health Quality & Safety Commission's (HQSC) Whakakotahi 2019 have a focus on medicine access equity. Last month the successful applicants of the annual competition were announced by HSQC. Applicants were invited to submit proposals about any area of patient care they wanted to improve that was important to their patients/community and to them as providers of care. This year HSQC partnered with PHARMAC (Te Pātaka Whaioranga) to support the following three projects which aim to reach people with inequitable access to medicines.

- **Westbury Pharmacy/Hora Te Pai Health Services (Kapiti Coast/Wellington region):** The 'hauora pai' project (Māori for 'good health'), is using a multi-disciplinary approach and a locally constructed, patient-led model of care to improve Māori and Pacific patients' long-term gout management and reduce inequity of service provision.
- **Te Whānau a Apanui Community Health Centre (Te Kaha/Bay of Plenty region):** Medicines access in a remote rural community will be the focus of the improvement work to understand and build a sustainable model of community-driven quality improvement practices to address health disparities of its high-need, predominantly Māori population. Patient engagement and community guidance will drive the project with the aim of building a model that can be scaled to other low-resource settings.
- **Tongan Health Society (Onehunga, Auckland):** Working closely with patients presenting at the Bairds Road practice who have poor control of their diabetes, a new model of care will tailor services to individuals. It will include nurse-led clinics, peer coaches and psychology services aimed at improving patients' diabetes management and improving equity.

To read the Whakakotahi 2019 announcement in full [click here](#).

Whakapā mai/Contact Us



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<https://tas.health.nz/dhb-programmes-and-contracts/community-pharmacy-programme>



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



All District Health Boards