DHB Pharmacy Services Expert Advisory Group Statement update

The 20 District Health Boards’ Pharmacy Services Expert Advisory Group (EAG) met for the second time in 2019 on 16 April.

The Group’s functions include providing advice:

- on pharmacy and pharmacist services, including on progressing the four focus areas in the Pharmacy Action Plan 2016-2020, and related areas of priority for government

- on community pharmacy services, including advice on service design and service models; and changes that could be made to the Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement (ICPSA) for consideration during the ICPSA National Annual Agreement Review

- on matters referred to it as part of the ICPSA National Annual Agreement Review

The Group took an in-depth look at the draft workplan, focussing on clarity of direction and prioritisation of activities. “We’re energised,” said chair Graeme Norton, “and we expect to work together between formal meetings to drive our workplan forward into reality.” The workplan will be posted on the TAS website when finalised.

The EAG is committed to a transparent process and meeting minutes will be posted on the TAS website shortly. The next meeting will take place on 13 August. More information about the EAG, including the Terms of Reference and a full list of members, can be found on the TAS website.
ICPSA Monitoring Report goes interactive

The ICPSA Monitoring Report provides a quick overview of how key pharmacy activities and expenditure are tracking under the ICPSA.

An interactive version of the report is now available on the Community Pharmacy Services section on the TAS website.

The look and feel is the same as the previous PDF report but the interactive report allows you to:

- hover over the graphs to see data from previous months.
- re-order some lists to suit how you wish the information to be displayed.

The report will be updated each month. Check out the new page here: www.tas.health.nz/dhb-programmes-and-contracts/community-pharmacy-programme/icpsa-monitoring-report/

Pharmacy Permitted Charges Rule updated

The Pharmacy Permitted Charges Rule has been updated to align with the wording in the ICPSA. There has been no change to the intent or the actual list of permitted charges, except for the following: the example of when contract-holders can charge an additional amount when the quantity specified is in excess of the pharmaceutical maximum has changed, as the previous example was out of date. The DHBs will review the list of permitted charges and engage with provider representatives according to clause D.7(6)(a) of the ICPSA.

The Rules can be found at:


May ICPSA payments for contract-holders

Claim/Batch Payments: May 6, May 13, May 20, May 28
Case Mix Service Fees: May 1
Monthly LTC Service Fees: May 9
Additional Professional Advisory Services (APAS) Payment: May 14
Section 26/29 Fee: May 31

For the full 12 month calendar, download the ICPSA Payment Calendar here.
DHBs seek more information about evolving business models

DHBs have initiated a project to find out more information about evolving community pharmacy models so they can support pharmacists to provide innovative business services to patients.

The project is the Discovery Stage of the Review of Schedule 1 of the Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement (ICPSA). Under clause B.26 of the ICPSA, DHBs are required to conduct a review of the Dispensing and Supply Services in Schedule 1.

In the Discovery Stage, DHBs want to understand current and future enablers and barriers for the development of a range of business and service models.

A project team is conducting qualitative interviews with a range of people, including community pharmacists and pharmacy owners with a mix of business models, academics, wholesalers, technicians, technology providers, and system and process experts. These people are already involved in, or wish to develop, innovative models for medicine supply, patient advice, and other community pharmacy-related patient services.

These interviews will inform a report that demonstrates where and how innovation occurs now and could occur in the future, and identifies any barriers. The report will go to DHB GMs Planning and Funding for consideration in the July quarter, and inform the next stage of the Schedule 1 Review.

Pharmacy sector involvement in the Review

The community pharmacy sector will be involved through the DHBs’ Pharmacy Services Expert Advisory Group, and the National Annual Agreement Review of the ICPSA.

The Schedule 1 Review is on the EAG workplan, and the EAG will provide advice on the Review as it proceeds. The EAG comprises representatives from the community pharmacy and health sectors, as well as consumers, the Ministry of Health, and PHARMAC. The EAG will provide advice on the report arising from the Discovery Stage.

Advice on the draft report will also be sought from the National Annual Agreement Review of the ICPSA. The five provider organisations participating in the National Annual Agreement Review are:

- The Pharmacy Guild
- Green Cross Health
- Nirvana Pharmacy Group
- Pharmacy Partners
- Countdown

Advice from the EAG and the National Annual Agreement Review will inform the report that goes to DHB GMs Planning and Funding for consideration in the July quarter.
Invitation to Maori Pharmacists’ Association Symposium 2019

This year the Māori Pharmacists’ Association will hold their annual symposium in Auckland. The symposium will have presentations which discuss Māori knowledge, reflect on the current health sector and discuss ways that the pharmacy and pharmacists can action change to improve outcomes for, and with, Māori whānau and communities.

The symposium is open to all who are interested and the Māori Pharmacists’ Association look forward to welcoming and engaging symposium attendees in a programme that is sure to have something for everyone.

Saturday 8 June 2019, 9am-5pm
University of Auckland (Grafton Campus)
Park Rd, Grafton, Auckland

Speakers include:

- Donna Kerridge (Ngati Tahinga, Ngati Maniapoto, Ngati Mahuta): a respected traditional Māori medicine practitioner who serves as the contracted negotiator for the national collective of rongoā Māori practitioners, Te Kāhui Rongoā.

- Brendon McIntosh (Kai Tahu): a Community Pharmacist in Waitaha, Canterbury for 6 years and also the co-founder of Kōako, a company specialising in the cosmetic use of hemp.

- Dr Heather Came-Friar: a seventh generation Pākehā New Zealander who grew up on Ngātiwai land. She has worked for 25 years in health promotion, public health and/or Māori health and has a long involvement in social justice activism in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Click on the link below for more info and to learn how to register.