



Rongoā

The newsletter of the DHBs' Community Pharmacy Services programme



Hakihea – December 2018 | Panui 4

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Ngā mihi o te wa o te Kirihimete me te tau hou. Anei ngā pitopito kōrero o te panui tuawha o Rongoā. Seasons Greetings and welcome to the fourth edition of Rongoā – the monthly newsletter (panui) of the District Health Boards' (DHBs') Community Pharmacy Services programme.

The blossoming of the pohutakawa signals the arrival of the summer holidays and provides a gentle reminder that 2019 is just around the corner. 2018 was another busy year for the national Community Pharmacy Services Programme, and among the mahi for the year ahead are the National Annual Agreement Review 2018-2019, strengthening the Expert Advisory Group and supporting DHBs to develop new local services to address inequities and meet the specific needs of local communities.

The TAS Community Pharmacy Programme, on behalf of the 20 DHBs, wish you and your respective whanau a very merry Christmas and a happy, healthy and safe New Year.

If you have any suggestions for future topics for 2019, please drop us a line at: pharmacy@tas.health.nz



Upcoming ICPSA payments for contract-holders

Claim/Batch Payments: Dec 12, Dec 20, Dec 28, Jan 7, Jan 14

Case Mix Service Fees: Jan 3

Monthly LTC Service Fees: Jan 11

Additional Professional Advisory Services (APAS) Payment : Dec 14, Jan 14

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

Test kits for faecal blood

The Ministry of Health recently released a statement about FOBT [faecal occult blood test] kits being sold by some pharmacies as a preliminary test for bowel cancer. The Ministry is concerned that some purchasers may not be aware that a positive test result does not automatically qualify them for a colonoscopy under the public health system.

The Ministry is seeking assistance from pharmacists to clarify this point and make sure customers understand that, if they buy a kit and return a positive result, a subsequent colonoscopy is likely only to be obtained through the private sector.

The Ministry's full statement can be found [here](#).

Latest pack fee rate review

The pack fee rate for the quarter beginning 1 January 2019 has been reviewed and set at 25.3 cents (the same rate as the previous quarter). Pack fee payments are an additional margin payment (volume-based) towards the procurement and stockholding costs for a pharmaceutical.

To view earlier pack fee rates click [here](#).

ICPSA: National Annual Agreement Review 2018-2019

As District Health Boards informed contract-holders recently, the first meeting for the National Annual Agreement Review 2018-19 of the Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement took place on 3 December in Wellington. Present were DHB and Ministry of Health representatives, five sector representative organisations (Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand, Green Cross Health, Nirvana Health, Pharmacy Partners and Countdown) and an independent contract-holder from Wellington. The meeting set the scene for the 2018-19 Review, and all participants agreed the meeting was positive and collaborative. Discussion focussed on prioritisation of matters to look at in the Review. Minutes of the meeting will be posted on the TAS website shortly.

More information is available [here](#).

Reminder about Long Term Conditions Service - changing providers

When existing LTC service users are transferring to a new community pharmacy (including between DHBs), they are not considered new registrations and can be transferred -- even if the LTC annual cap in the new provider's DHB is in force. If a service user transferring to a new community pharmacy has previously exited the service and been de-registered, if you are considering providing the LTC service to them, they will be considered a new service user and be counted as part of the LTC cap in your area.



Enrolments open for Massey University Certificate in Public Health

If you are looking to take up some part-time study next year, which you can do online, you may be interested in the Massey University Certificate in Public Health as an option. The Ministry of Health also provides the opportunity for health sector workers to apply for a Public Health Fees Grant which pays for tuition fees and a travel subsidy (if applicable).

The Certificate offers the opportunity to strengthen foundational public health knowledge and skills essential for successful community based practice. It is a part time, undergraduate level five, **public health qualification offered as a distance learning programme**. The Certificate has been specifically [designed to recognise the unique contribution Māori make to public health practice in Aotearoa](#). It provides the tools, frameworks and communication skills for all students to strengthen their ability to promote health equity and Māori Health outcomes to diverse audiences.

To be eligible for the Public Health Fees Grant, applicants must:

- be currently employed in a public health role
- be employed in a public health role an average of 20 hours per week
- be committed to remaining in public health
- have a signed study support agreement from your manager

To find out more about the Certificate in Public Health [click here on the Massey website](#) and [here on the MOH website](#)

To find out more about the [course content click here](#)

To apply for a [Public Health Fees Grant click here](#)

If you have any questions email:

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Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction Report released



He Ara Oranga: Report of the Government Mental Health and Addiction Inquiry was publically released on 4 December, and the report is now in the hands of the Government to make decisions on the proposed directions and recommendations set out in the Inquiry report.

Consultation by the Inquiry panel was launched in April and led to over 5,200 submissions. For several months, the panel travelled around New Zealand meeting with and listening to people at 26 public forums from Kaitia to Invercargill. They also attended hundreds of meetings hearing from people with lived experience, whānau, service providers and community groups.

In the final report, the panel recommended making big changes in ten areas, and putting more government money into mental health and addiction. Several formats of the report (including animated videos and Te Reo Maori, Samoan, easy read and sign language versions) and supplementary documents are now available on the website:

<https://www.mentalhealth.inquiry.govt.nz/inquiry-report/>

Other documents including commissioned reports and summaries of the submissions will soon be made available on the Inquiry website.

PHARMAC consultation:

Proposal to open access to atomoxetine and change funded brand

PHARMAC is proposing to remove all funding restrictions from all presentations of atomoxetine, and change the funded brand of atomoxetine from Strattera to a brand supplied by Generic Partners (NZ) Limited. The Generic Partners brand of atomoxetine would be listed from 1 July 2019, and the community and hospital funding restrictions on atomoxetine would be removed at the same time. There would then be a transition period, detailed below, after which Strattera would be delisted.

The Generic Partners brand of atomoxetine would be awarded sole supply from 1 December 2019 until 30 June 2022, meaning that it would be the only funded brand of atomoxetine during this time.

Consultation closes at 5 pm on Friday, 18 January 2019. [Click here](#) to find out more.

PHARMAC is also seeking feedback before the end of the year for other consultations.

For a full list of current consultations go [here](#)

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.



All District Health Boards