

1 July 2020

PHARMAC
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By email: consult@pharmac.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Proposal relating to Schedule changes made in response to COVID-19

Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa, New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the above proposal.

NZNO has consulted its members and staff in particular members of; Te Rūnanga o Aotearoa, and professional nursing and policy advisers. NZNO is the leading professional nursing association and union for nurses in Aotearoa New Zealand, representing 51,000 nurses, midwives, students, kaimahi hauora and health workers on professional and employment matters. NZNO embraces Te Tiriti o Waitangi and contributes to the improvements of the health status and outcomes of all people of Aotearoa New Zealand through influencing health, employment and social policy development.

We support the proposed Schedule changes that are associated with reverting to the (pre-COVID) normal criteria from either 1 September or 1 December 2020. We note that the restrictions on the access to hydroxychloroquine remains.

We are highly supportive of the removal of restrictions on some prescriber groups, in particular nurse practitioners, on the range of community pharmaceuticals listed in the consultation document.

We also recommend that on health equity be required as criteria for assessing any special authority requests for drugs following the Te Tiriti O Waitangi articles.

Nāku noa nā

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