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Tēnā koe

Proposal to amend the funding access criteria for some Nutritional Products (Special Foods)

The New Zealand Nurses Organisation welcomes the above proposal of extending funding for nutritional supplements and special foods to children requiring tube feeding and those with epidermolysis bullosa (EB), acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS), chronic pancreatitis, hyperemesis gravidarum and twin pregnancies. We also support appropriate health professionals having access to funded products.

EB nurses, who are members of NZNO, note that powdered supplements are inappropriate for a small number (about a dozen) of people with severe EB, and others with acutely restricted throats. The 'lumpiness' of hand-mixed powdered products may lead to choking and some may not have the use of their hands to do the mixing. There are other problems some may encounter with hand mixing such as difficulties with sterilisation and the potential increased risk of infection. Having access to powdered nutrition only would severely impact on their quality of life and ability to go to school or work. We recommend that liquid instead of powdered product is made available to these people and look forward to the proposal being amended accordingly.

Nāku noa, nā

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NEW ZEALAND NURSES ORGANISATION

The New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) is the leading professional body of nurses and nursing union in Aotearoa New Zealand, representing over 46 000 nurses and health workers. Te Runanga o Aotearoa is the arm through which our Te Tiriti o Waitangi partnership is articulated. Our members include nurses, midwives, students, kaimahi hauora, health care workers and allied health professionals.

The NZNO vision is "Freed to care, Proud to nurse". Our members enhance the health and wellbeing of all people of Aotearoa New Zealand and are united in their professional and industrial aspirations.

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