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Tēnā koe

### **Proposal for funded multiple sclerosis treatments**

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

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.

Furthermore, we share the intent of the Ministry of Health's definition of equity which equally applies to NZNO work across professional, industrial and member activities.

NZNO supports PHARMAC's proposal to fund treatment for individuals with multiple sclerosis. The requirement for applications no longer being approved by the Multiple Sclerosis Assessment Committee (MSTAC) has removed a barrier and standardised the approach across PHARMAC's Special Authority applications.

The widening of access to funded treatments combined with the proposed changes to criteria and streamlining access will reduce the burden on clinicians, patients, families and whānau. Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback.

Nāku noa nā

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