

2021/03

8 March 2021

PHARMAC  
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WELLINGTON 6143



By email: [consult@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:consult@pharmac.govt.nz)

Tēnā koe

### **Proposal for the supply of various medicines**

Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa, New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) welcomes the opportunity to comment on a proposal for the supply of various medicines.

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 for the supply of various medicines. This action will ensure that with Apotex leaving the New Zealand market, PHARMAC will ensure patients have a consistent supply of medications.

For those changing from one brand to another, there is an expectation that education and support for clinicians and patients will be provided as part of the transition. We also recommend that PHARMAC consider a fully funded primary care (or equivalent) consultation with a clinician to discuss the changes to medications and the implications for the patient and their family and whanau. This action will deliver benefits for Maori, Pasifika, and underserved populations and thereby, reduce the known risks when changing from one brand to another.

Furthermore, we support the monitoring of any undesirable patient events through the change process and that these episodes will be investigated via the appropriate process's and services as they evolve.

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Once again, these actions contribute to supporting improved health outcomes for individuals and their family and whanau.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to your consultation process.

Nāku noa nā

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Lucia Bercinskas".

**Lucia Bercinskas**  
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