

2021/03

8 March 2021

PHARMAC  
PO Box 10254  
The Terrace  
WELLINGTON 6143



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

Tēnā koe

**Proposal to fully fund Mercilon 28 for oral contraception.**

Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa, New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) welcomes the opportunity to comment on a proposal to fully fund Mercilon 28 for oral contraception.

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 fully fund Mercilon 28 for oral contraception. This action will benefit those already using Mercilon 28 and those considering using it due to a shortage of alternative combined oral contraceptives. For those *swapping* from one brand to Mercilon 28, there is an expectation that education and support will be provided as part of the transition.

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

**Lucia Bercinskas**  
Senior Policy Analyst  
(04) 912 1099

**National Office**  
Level 3, Findex House  
57 Willis Street  
Wellington 6011  
PO Box 2128  
Wellington 6140  
T 0800 28 38 48  
[www.nzno.org.nz](http://www.nzno.org.nz)