

2021/03

8 March 2021

PHARMAC
PO Box 10254
The Terrace
WELLINGTON 6143



By email: consult@pharmac.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Proposal for funding of food thickeners

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

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 consultation to gather information and evidence that supports a decision on the funding of food thickeners in the community. NZNO also acknowledges PHARMAC's decision to retain the funding of food thickeners in hospitals (through Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule).

While we are unable to provide detailed comment on the use of food thickeners in the community. We do recommend that from an equity perspective, funded food thickeners are made available in the community now and in the future to support improved health outcomes for individuals and their family and whanau.

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

Nāku noa nā

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