

2021-07/09-02

09 July 2021

PHARMAC

By email: consult@pharmac.govt.nz



Tēnā koe

Proposal for the supply of primidone and gabapentin

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

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 continue funding primidone tablets and gabapentin capsules albeit a different brand as the current supplier has decided to withdraw from the New Zealand market later this year.

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

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lucia Bercinskas". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'L'.

Nāku noa nā

Lucia Bercinskas
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