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Tēnā koe

[Proposals to list hepatitis C treatments](#)

The New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the above proposals which we strongly support. Given the poor outcomes from existing care and the high costs and public health risks associated with hepatitis C, access to these treatments will not only save lives, but will improve quality of life for those with the disease and reduce its spread. We agree that Genotype 1 HCV individuals should be targeted for funded treatments as this is the prevalent serotype for HCV in Aotearoa New Zealand.

With regard to the Harvoni proposal, we note that funded access is only intended for those patients with hepatitis C of genotypes 2-6 who *have developed chronic liver disease*; we look forward to the developments you anticipate for patients who are in the early stage of the disease. While we understand the significant cost of a course of treatment (\$ 73,090.38), the number of patients that will initially be eligible for funded treatment (250) seems very small, and we would support an early review of the MELD score threshold.

As always, nurses note that increased access to medications generally impacts on administration, staffing and facility requirements which need to be considered. The high incidence of Hepatitis C in some vulnerable communities may have particular implications for some services eg Corrections facilities, and courier costs may be access deterrent to those individuals with financial hardship eg) Far North, rural locations in forestry regions of the country. (It is not clear from the proposal who would cover the courier costs.)

Nākū noa, nā

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Marilyn Heard'.

Marilyn Head  
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## NEW ZEALAND NURSES ORGANISATION (NZNO)

NZNO is the leading professional nursing association and union for nurses in Aotearoa New Zealand. NZNO represents over 47,000 nurses, midwives, students, kaimahi hauora and health workers on professional and employment related matters. NZNO is affiliated to the International Council of Nurses and the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions.

NZNO promotes and advocates for professional excellence in nursing by providing leadership, research and education to inspire and progress the profession of nursing. NZNO represents members on employment and industrial matters and negotiates collective employment agreements.

NZNO embraces te Tiriti o Waitangi and contributes to the improvement of the health status and outcomes of all peoples of Aotearoa New Zealand through influencing health, employment and social policy development enabling quality nursing care provision. NZNO's vision is *Freed to care, Proud to nurse*.