

10 February 2022

PHARMAC

By email: consult@pharmac.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Proposal to increase list price and subsidy of influenza vaccine for 2022

Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa, New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) welcomes the opportunity to comment on PHARMAC proposal to increase the list price and subsidy of influenza vaccine for 2022.

NZNO is the leading professional nursing association and union for nurses in Aotearoa New Zealand, representing 55,000 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 for all Aotearoa New Zealanders 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 has consulted with members and staff in the preparation of this response. NZNO acknowledges the while the list price increase is not insignificant, many individuals are eligible for a fully funded influenza vaccine. For others there will be no visible change as the funding and delivery are the responsibility of their employer.

NZNO acknowledges that for many Māori, Pacifica and underserved population groups the increases are inequitable and will likely act as a deterrent to obtaining a vaccination at a time when the Government are actively encouraging the people of New Zealand to have their COVID-19 vaccination and booster. There are also some concerns about the timing of this fee increase as many employers are experiencing financial difficulties, the cost of living is increasing, and families are struggling to make ends meet.

We thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on your proposal.

Nāku noa nā



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