Ref: 2022-03/10-03

7 March 2022

PHARMAC
By email: georgia.cassidy@pharmac.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Proposal to list medical devices supplied by Universal Specialists Limited.

Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa, the New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) welcomes the opportunity to comment on PHARMAC's proposal to list a range of medical devices supplied by Universal Specialists Limited.

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 of all people of Aotearoa New Zealand through influencing health, employment, and social policy development.

We share the intent of the Ministry of Health's definition of equity which equally applies to NZNO work across professional, industrial and members' activities.

NZNO supports PHARMAC's proposal to list medical devices in Part III of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule by Universal Specialists Limited. We also endorse the agreement whereby this would not be for sole supply and DHBs could continue to purchase other suppliers' brands of medical devices.

With the introduction of new devices NZNO has an expectation that those using them will be offered training and support to use these appropriately.

NZNO also recommends that PHARMAC, as the lead procurer of medical devices and medicines, needs to consider the impact of climate change and waste minimisation in its factors for consideration framework[1].

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

Nāku noa nā

Lucia Bercinskas

Lucia Bercinskas
Senior Policy Analyst

[1] https://pharmac.govt.nz/medicine-funding-and-supply/the-funding-process/policies-manuals-and-processes/factors-for-consideration/

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