

Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement National Annual Agreement Review 2023 Meeting 2, 10 July 2023

Statement

The second meeting of the 2023 Integrated Community Pharmacy Service Agreement (ICPSA) National Annual Agreement Review (NAAR) took place on Monday, 10 July 2023 between Te Whatu Ora and the Pharmacy sector representatives.

The meeting opened with an acknowledgement that the NAAR process has the challenge of a tight timeframe and a relatively uncertain external environment. During the meeting, Pharmacy provider representatives reiterated their view that cost and workforce pressures have not been satisfactorily resolved to date and that the 5% price uplift would be insufficient. The importance of continuing the work on the independent reviews into unmet funding and cost pressures was emphasised.

Te Whatu Ora proposed an offer for the ICPSA agreement and a proposal and process for applying the 5% price uplift across service lines. This included an option to change the ICPSA year from October to July, which was discussed in the meeting.

Other options discussed included the re-establishment of an Expert Advisory Group (EAG) and use of subject matter experts to review the Long Term Conditions Pharmacy Service, Clozapine Service and Community Pharmacy Anticoagulation Management Service (CPAMS).

It was agreed that Te Whatu Ora would present further analyses looking at Case Mix Seasonal Adjuster modelling and varying options of moving existing Additional Professional Advisory Services (APAS) payments into service lines. Work was also agreed to explore the potential of introducing a community pharmacy rural adjuster; and to work with Pharmac on supply chain issues.

Te Whatu Ora talked about its commitment to reaching a new agreement and regretted it is unable to provide a specific timeline, at this point. This is because there is strategic policy work underway on the future redesign of primary care and localities with Manatū Hauora leading the work. However, Te Whatu Ora expressed its commitment to continue to highlight pieces of work that it can work more collaboratively with the Pharmacy sector on. It also undertook to update the sector once it has a better understanding of a timeframe for the resolution of matters raised at the NAAR.

END