

Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement National Annual Agreement Review 2023 Meeting 4, 9 August 2023

Statement

The fourth meeting of the 2023 Integrated Community Pharmacy Service Agreement (ICPSA) National Annual Agreement Review (NAAR) took place on Wednesday 9 August between Te Whatu Ora and the Pharmacy sector representatives. This was an extra meeting added to the schedule to attempt to move towards consensus on some of the key matters in the proposed Te Whatu Ora offer.

The financial benefit to the pharmacy sector of moving to a contract period starting 1 July was noted, and the pharmacy representatives wanted all efforts to be made to progress a voluntary variation to make this change. A voluntary variation requires agreement of every single provider, as it may not be possible to have some providers with contracts for July to June and others having contracts for October to September. Te Whatu Ora will come back to the next meeting with progress on this.

A paper from Te Whatu Ora presented four proposals on how to apply the proposed 5% price uplift. Proposal B modelled the 5% price uplift and moves 30.87% of existing Additional Professional Advisory Services (APAS) funding into service lines. The pharmacy representatives caucused and achieved consensus around Proposal B.

The original proposal from Te Whatu Ora noted several service-based reviews to be progressed through a Pharmacy Services Expert Advisory Group (EAG).

Before agreeing which services should be reviewed, NAAR considered it crucial to first revise the terms of reference for the EAG, to ensure the resourcing was adequate, and appropriate expertise was secure for a successful process. Te Whatu Ora explained that it was not possible to revise the terms of reference prior to the final agreement going out to the sector, so this commitment will be in the letter of offer.

NAAR was presented with an indicative timeline to get all signed variations returned by 27 October 2023, which, it was noted, is extremely tight.
