

Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement National Annual Agreement Review 2024 Meeting 3, 21 May 2024

Statement

The third meeting of the 2024 Integrated Community Pharmacy Service Agreement (ICPSA) National Annual Agreement Review (NAAR) took place on Tuesday 21 May 2024 between Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) and the Pharmacy sector representatives. The meeting focussed on the establishment of the Expert Advisory Group (EAG), the review of the Minor Health Conditions Service which ran in 2023, and on the community pharmacy design workstream.

Some preliminary information on the ICPSA service fee lines was presented, giving NAAR members the opportunity to consider where additional analysis might be needed prior to the Health NZ price uplift announcement.

The pharmacy representation on the EAG has been agreed by consensus of the NAAR provider representatives. Andrew Gaudin and Alex de Roo will be the Provider Representatives, and Alex Graham, Brooke McKay, Bronwen Shepherd and Joel Sathuluri will be the practising community pharmacist representatives. Consumer and Health NZ EAG members were also confirmed, with finalisation of the Māori members yet to be completed.

NAAR members commented on the high quality of applications for EAG, and the excellence of the process run by the Pharmacy Guild.

The aim is to run the first meeting of the EAG by the end of June 2024. This meeting will be in-person to ensure the best possible start for the group.

Prior to the meeting, NAAR members had created a list of topics which they wished to see on the EAG work programme. The extension nationally of the Minor Health Conditions Service was considered the top priority, with a review of locally commissioned services to identify services that would benefit from being nationwide, and a review of clozapine services was also strongly favoured. The other suggestions will be considered, with some, for example, a review of the medicines supply chain, already included in the draft pharmacy design workstream. It was decided to resolve the broad outline of the EAG work programme at the next NAAR meeting, appreciating that the EAG itself will offer advice too with NAAR as the final decision maker on the programme.

Health NZ presented an overall draft plan for the pharmacy design workstream within the broader context of the primary care development programme taking place over the next 18-24 months. The current aim is for a new contract to be in place by 1 July 2026. Health NZ invited NAAR members to contact Health NZ by email as soon as possible with initial comments on this programme, so that a second discussion on this plan can take place at the next NAAR meeting. NAAR members appreciated seeing this detailed plan at this stage, emphasised how important it was for them to be fully engaged and consulted in this design work and to also consider where work items would be best positioned within the overall service redesign programme (eg, within Health NZ, the EAG, or NAAR).

The next meeting will be held on 13 June 2024 once the Budget on 30 May 2024 enables confirmation of Health NZ's price uplift offer.
