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Update on Proposal to Enable Childhood Immunisations at Pharmacies

- Last month, Te Whatu Ora and Pharmac released a joint consultation regarding the removal of pharmacy ordering restrictions for some childhood immunisations. The consultation closed on January 29 2024.
- A lot of responses were received, and more time is needed to consider this feedback. The earliest date that this change will be enabled, if the proposal is successful, is now April 1 2024.
- A training package is currently being developed so that pharmacist vaccinators can upskill to become fully authorised vaccinators. This should be available in late March, if the decision from Pharmac is to proceed. This training package will lead to authorisation for whole-of-life immunisations and will allow pharmacists to immunise pēpi from 6 weeks of age.
- Pharmac has also decided to consult on a proposal to amend the listing for paracetamol oral liquid to enable Direct Provision by pharmacists. This change will be considered alongside the proposal to remove the pharmacy ordering restriction from certain childhood vaccines, including meningococcal B vaccine. The consultation closes at 9.00am on Monday February 19 2024.
- More information about both consultations can be found on the [Pharmac website](#).

<p>Immunisation Pānui February 16 2024 View online</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current Immunisation Pānui can be viewed via the attached link.
<p>National Data Platform Monthly Update January 2024 <i>Update attached</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please see the attached monthly update on the National Data Platform.
<p>Consultation: Decision to Fund Treatments for People with Breast Cancer and Leukaemia View online</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmac are planning to fund two new cancer treatments, ribociclib (branded as Kisqali) for a type of advanced breast cancer, and midostaurin (branded as Rydapt) for acute myeloid leukaemia. See the attached link, consultation and media release for more information.
<p>Proposal to Fund Treatments for Gynaecological Cancers, Respiratory Disorders, Infectious Diseases and Vasculitis View online</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmac are seeking feedback to fund five treatments. See the attached link for more information.
<p>Supply Updates Olsalazine and Mesalazine 800mg Tab (Asacol) View online / <i>Update attached for Mesalazine</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See the attached link on Olsalazine and update on Mesalazine 800mg tab (Asacol) supply issue.
<p>Upcoming Event: Melanoma Mini-Summit May 11 2024, Christchurch Melanoma Mini-Summit - MelNet</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MelNet are hosting a Melanoma Mini-Summit at Te Pae Convention Centre, Christchurch May 11 2024. The Mini-Summit will share and discuss latest developments, promote best practice and bring together health professionals working across the continuum of melanoma management. See the attached link for more information.F They are also holding two pre-summit workshops on Friday May 10 2024 at Turanga Central Library, Christchurch. See the below links for more information and to register: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Skin Lesion and Dermatoscopy course Melanoma Research and Therapy Special Interest Group
<p>Decision to Fund Testosterone Gel View online</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See attached link from Pharmac on this notification.
<p>New Zealand Women in Medicine Conference 2024 NZWIM Conference 2024 <i>Draft programme attached</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This conference is being held May 15-18 2024 at the Tākina Convention Centre in Wellington. See the attached link and draft programme for more information.
<p>Family Planning to become Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On February 14 Family Planning changed its name to Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa. Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa better reflects the current life and times of the organisation and the people they work with, especially young people. Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa is clearer and more direct. It says, you're safe here with us, we care that you're well and that you're well informed.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For further information go to www.sexualwellbeing.org.nz
Hospital and Healthcare Latest News View online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The latest healthcare news and insights can be viewed via the attached link.
Rare Disorders NZ Newsletter February 2024 <i>See attached newsletter</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> See the attached newsletter on Rare Disorders NZ for February 2024.
World AMR Awareness Week November 18-24 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Te Whatu Ora's specialist antimicrobial stewardship and infection pharmacist group has been pleased to help raise awareness of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) through leadership of four national WAAW initiatives. These have encouraged clinicians to document the indication on antimicrobial prescriptions (2020 and 2023) and challenge penicillin allergy labels (2021), and the public to return unused antimicrobials to their pharmacy for disposal (2022). However, Te Whatu Ora will not be leading a WAAW initiative this year due to ongoing capacity issues for members of their small group (mainly hospital-based infection pharmacists). However, their members are committed to supporting and promoting an appropriate initiative led by another organisation. Tu Whatu Ora acknowledge the help provided to ramp up WAAW messaging and for facilitating consistent messaging in support of judicious antimicrobial use across the motu.
Updates for Primary Care Prescribers View online Updates for Pharmacists View online	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Please see attached links to view Pharmac updates as at February 16 2024.
Profile Update for Updates for Pharmacists	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pharmac have received a request to change subscription preferences for Update for Pharmacists. If you made this request, and would like to change your preferences, use this link Update your preferences. For questions about this list, please contact enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz
Top Weekend Viewing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stephen King is known for writing horror novels, but some of his best work has been made into several iconic films that are outside his normal horror genre. Here are a few worth watching or revisiting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Shawshank Redemption (Apple TV/Google Play) - A successful banker is arrested for the murders of his wife and her lover and is sentenced to life imprisonment at the Shawshank prison. He becomes the most unconventional prisoner. View trailer The Green Mile (Apple TV/Google Play) - The head guard of a prison, meets an inmate who is accused of murdering two girls. His life changes drastically when he discovers that John has a special gift. View trailer

- **Stand By Me** (TVNZ+) - Four friends decide to go hiking in order to find the dead body of a local teenager who was hit by a train while plucking blueberries in the wild.

[View trailer](#)