

Kia Ora Koutou

General practice funding for advance prescriptions for COVID therapeutics

On Thursday 14 July Minister Verrall announced that people will be able to ask their healthcare provider if they are eligible for an advance prescription for COVID-19 therapeutics. The purpose is to provide assurance to those most at risk of hospitalisation when they have COVID-19, that they will have timely access to these medications.

The detail of the end-to-end process is being finalised. Te Whatu Ora and the Ministry of Health recognise that guidance and more information about how this will be implemented is needed, and we are working to have this available as soon as possible.

In the interim we can confirm that funding is immediately available to support advance prescriptions. The funding is an extension of existing funding rates, previously agreed for primary care encounters relating to COVID-19 activity e.g., third primary vaccine dose, medical exemption assessments and vaccine adverse events. All scripts must be appropriately endorsed: the person will meet the access criteria when they are diagnosed with COVID-19 including being symptomatic; include their most recent renal function; and give the prescribers contact number in case there are any questions from the pharmacist.

Funding

- Simple consultation when a person contacts the practice for an advance prescription, but they do not meet the eligibility criteria, or it is not clinically appropriate - \$60
- Consultation where a person meets the eligibility criteria, and an advance script is issued - \$120

The fee claimed is independent of the mode of the consultation (face-to-face or telephone) and the clinician undertaking the consultation.

Prices are exclusive of GST

We shall communicate these to the sector so that claiming systems can be established. In the interim it is recommended to keep a record of these encounters for claiming reconciliation.

Please email COVIDCareintheCommunity@health.govt.nz if you need any clarification.

Ngā mihi

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