



Charging patients under 14 years of age

According to Te Whatu Ora | Health New Zealand, Tamariki (children) aged 13 and under are eligible for free doctor visits at general practices. However, it is always best to check with your specific practice to confirm eligibility.

What's Covered for Children Under 14?

- **GP and Nurse Visits:** Free daytime consultations at enrolled general practices.
- **After-Hours Visits:** Free consultations at designated 'zero-fee' after-hours clinics.
- **ACC Visits:** Free injury-related visits covered by ACC.
- **Prescriptions:** Some standard prescriptions may also be free.

After-Hours Care

Te Whatu Ora | Health New Zealand ensures that Tamariki under 14 have access to free after-hours care. These services are for urgent visits when the child's regular practice is closed, and they need to be seen before it reopens.

ACC Consultations

Most general practices offer **free injury-related consultations** for children aged 13 and under.

Prescription Charges

Most people will pay a standard \$5 prescription co-payment per medicine. However, prescriptions are **free** for:

- Tamariki aged 13 and under
- Seniors aged 65 and over
- Community Services Card holders and their dependents

Prescriptions from private specialists or non-publicly funded providers (e.g., dentists) have the following co-payments:

- \$15 for adults and seniors
- \$10 for children aged 14–17
- **No charge for tamariki aged 13 and under**

Fees for non-Pharmac-funded medicines remain unchanged.

Free Prescriptions from After-Hours Pharmacies

After-hours pharmacies will dispense fully funded prescriptions **free of charge** for tamariki aged 13 and under. Te Whatu Ora ensures that at least 95% of enrolled children can access this service within a reasonable travel time (up to 1 hour). Availability may vary depending on the number of pharmacies in the area.

When Charges May Apply

A fee may be charged in the following situations:

- If a patient visits a different general practice during the day instead of their usual GP
- For extended consultations (longer than a standard consult)
- For medical procedures
- For additional services, (outside of general consult), such as certificates, equipment, or liquid nitrogen

Links to further information

[Zero fees for tamariki under 14](#)

[Free health checks for children under 14](#)