


Kia ora koutou

Please see this week's Primary Care Clinical Digest for the week ending May 19 2023.

Have a great weekend everyone!

	PRIMARY CARE CLINICAL DIGEST MAY 19 2023
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Immunisation Update - May 18 2023 <i>See linked update.</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immunisation Update May 18 includes:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Aotearoa Immunisation Week (May 29 – June 4)○ Resources available on Dropbox○ Recommended order timeframes in preparation for Aotearoa Immunisation Week○ Invitation National Immunisation Programme – stakeholder hui (June 7)○ Flu updates○ MMR update
Webinar – Planning for Palliative Care Services in Aotearoa: What our Population Data Tells Us	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Webinar: Planning for palliative care services in Aotearoa: what our population data tells us. Being held Tuesday May 23 2023, 10.30am-12.30pm and presented by Heather McLeod. Webinar link: Teams Live event
Proposal to Fund Candesartan with Hydrochlorothiazide Tablets for High Blood Pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Please follow this link to the Pharmac consultation regarding a proposal to fund candesartan with hydrochlorothiazide tablets for the treatment of high blood pressure.• To provide feedback, please submit it in writing by 5pm on Thursday 1st June 2023 to consult@pharmac.govt.nz.
Listening to Families – Website / YouTube Resource <i>See linked information</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The linked information provides links on how to access website/YouTube ‘videos on ‘Listening to Families’ videos providing answers to families’ questions about a range of mental health challenges facing children and adolescents. The videos within each topic record a conversation and are arranged in chapters for quick reference.
Just Breathe Conference: June 17-18 2023 Auckland	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The PSNZ Just Breathe conference is being held June 17-18 2023 at Waipuna Conference Centre, Auckland.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topics include vaping, managing medicines in the elderly, mindfulness, public health, respiratory health and the new health and disability system. • Health Minister, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall will deliver the opening address on the Saturday. • See full programme here and CLICK HERE TO REGISTER FOR THE CONFERENCE
ACC Strategic Clinical Advisor – Māori Health Position	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACC is currently looking for a Strategic Clinical Advisor – Māori Health. • Please see the following link for more details Strategic Clinical Advisor - Māori Health - ACC New Zealand Careers (oraclecloud.com)
Telehealth Consultation - MCNZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please see Consultation – Statement on Telehealth for feedback: https://www.mcnz.org.nz/about-us/news-and-updates/consultation-updated-statement-on-telehealth/
Reminder: IFAC 3rd Asia Pacific Conference on Integrated Care (APIC3), Sydney November 13-15 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on The 3rd Asia Pacific Conference “Building healthcare system sustainability and resilience” conference was shown in last week’s Clinical Digest. • This is a reminder and information can be found on the website 3rd Asia Pacific Conference on Integrated Care
Updates for Pharmacists in General Practice weeks ending May 12 and May 19 2023 <i>See full notices linked for wider information</i>	<p>Supply Issue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hydroxocobalamin inj 1 mg per ml. There is a supply issue affecting hydroxocobalamin injections (PanPharma). Listed are three alternative brands of B12 injections: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cobalin H: will be available from mid-May. This brand is not Medsafe-approved and will have to be prescribed and dispensed in line with Section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981. ○ Vita-B12: will be available late May and is Medsafe approved. ○ Cobal-B12: stock has arrived and has been used to fill backorders. Further stock to be available mid-May. This brand is not Medsafe-approved and will have to be prescribed and dispensed in line with Section 29 of the Medicines Act. ○ For more information, see website: Hydroxocobalamin (B12) inj 1 mg per ml (PanPharma) • Diclofenac eye drops 0.1% (Voltaren Ophtha) A manufacturing issue has led to low stock of diclofenac eye drops. Nepafenac (Ilevro) 0.3% eye drops have been funded since 12 April 2023 as an alternative. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ For more information, see the Diclofenac eye drops 0.1% notice. • Oestradiol (Estradot) patches. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ There have been several disruptions to supply of the Oestradiol (branded as Estradot) patches since August 2020. The product is on allocation whereby pharmacies are only receiving a small allocation each week. This is to ensure equitable distribution of the limited supplies around the country. ○ The dosing of the alternative brands is the same as Estradot. The alternative brands are not Medsafe-approved, as such

they need to be prescribed and dispensed in line with [Section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981](#).

- For more information, see the [Oestradiol \(Estradot\) patches notice](#).

Delist:

- **Cilazapril** is used in New Zealand much more than any other country. To reduce the risk of supply issues, the funding of cilazapril will soon stop. Action for prescribers:
 - Identify patients using cilazapril and discuss transitioning them to alternative treatments as soon as possible.
 - Help finding an alternative treatment:
 - [Changing ACEs: The new line up | He Ako Hiringa](#)
 - [Switching blood pressure medications – it's time to break the cilazapril habit - He Ako Hiringa](#)
 - [BPAC's advice on prescribing ACE inhibitors](#)
 - [Treating hypertension and heart failure in the NZ Formulary](#)
 - He Ako Hiringa has a [cilazapril dashboard](#) that lets prescribers view data about patients dispensed cilazapril, nationally and by both prescriber and practice.

Discontinuation:

- **Triazolam** tablets 125 mcg and 250 mcg. The supplier of triazolam 125 and 250 mcg tablets (Hypam) has advised they are no longer going to be able to supply the New Zealand market. Stock of both strengths is expected to be depleted around September/October 2023. An alternative supplier of triazolam tablets has not been identified, so both strengths will be delisted once any remaining stock in New Zealand has been dispensed.
- Information for prescribers:
 - Ensure no new patients are started on triazolam tablets.
 - Consider whether benzodiazepines are still clinically indicated for people who are using triazolam.
 - Support patients who are currently using triazolam to withdraw gradually or change to an alternative treatment if this is not appropriate. There are alternative funded medicines listed on the [Pharmaceutical Schedule](#) that could be considered, most likely temazepam or zopiclone.
- Resources for healthcare professionals:
 - [BPAC](#)
 - [withdrawing patients from long-term use of benzodiazepines or zopiclone](#)
 - [dose equivalence data for benzodiazepines and guidance for benzodiazepine withdrawal](#).

Brand Change:

- **Phenobarbitone** tablets 15 mg and 30 mg
 - API, the supplier of the currently funded 'PSM' brand of phenobarbitone tablets (15 mg & 30 mg), has closed its New Zealand manufacturing plant and is no longer supplying product in New Zealand. Because of this, the funded brand of phenobarbitone tablets (15 mg & 30 mg) will be changing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A supplier has applied to Medsafe for marketing approval of their brand of phenobarbitone tablets. ○ Please organise an appointment in June for your patients prescribed PSM phenobarbitone tablets (15 mg and/or 30 mg) to discuss the transition process. ○ He Ako Hiringa has developed a support resource including more information about phenobarbital serum testing Phenobarbitone tablets - Brand switch guidance He Ako Hiringa ○ Visit Phenobarbitone (15 mg and 30 mg tablets) Pharmac webpage for more information about claiming for reimbursement of co-payment fees and serum phenobarbital levels ● Expressions of Interest for Pharmac’s Advisory Committees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If you are interested in being involved in Pharmac’s clinical advice network Pharmac website, please send an email to advisorycommittees@pharmac.govt.nz outlining your specific clinical area(s) of interest. ● For up-to-date information about supply issues please check the Pharmac website
<p>Top Weekend Viewing</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Depending on how you viewed the Budget and with a wet weekend ahead, you might need some comedy to cheer you up, here are a few suggestions – all on TVNZ+: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bride Wars (TVNZ+) – two childhood best friends, who have made plans together for their respective weddings, turn into sworn enemies in a race to get married before the other. ○ The Ugly Truth (TVNZ+) – Abby, a lovelorn TV producer, finds herself in the midst of tests when she strikes a deal with her chauvinistic colleague, Mike, who wants to prove to her the accuracy of his relationship theories. A recipe for disaster! ○ Bedazzled (TVNZ+) – Elliot Richardson, a shy man reluctant to convey his feelings to the girl he loves. Observing his sad state, the Devil grants him seven wishes in exchange for his soul. Remake of a great comedy with Oscar winner, Brendan Fraser.

Ngā mihi
Janice



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