

27 June 2024

Kia ora koutou,

Re: COVID-19 antiviral medicines and COVID-19 vaccine funding from 1 July 2024

Thank you for your continued work to support our communities. This communication is to advise that, from 1 July 2024, the funding for the administration of COVID-19 vaccines and supply of COVID-19 antivirals via community pharmacy is changing.

Health NZ continues to transition its health response to COVID-19 so it is managed in a similar way to other communicable diseases, but some funded COVID-19 services remain available for people to access to support them with the prevention and management of COVID-19 throughout the winter months - particularly for those most at risk.

COVID-19 vaccination services

COVID-19 vaccines remain funded and are available to eligible people aged 6 months and over through their local primary care healthcare provider, GP or community pharmacy. We continue to encourage eligible people to receive their COVID-19 vaccination when they are due.

The current agreements for COVID-19 vaccine Price Per Dose administration (PPD) are due to expire 30 June 2024. These will be extended from 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

Following the agreement extension, it is intended that the service will be integrated into the Primary Health Organisation Service Agreement (PHOSA).

The Business Day PPD rate of \$36.05 will continue until 30 June 2025. The existing out-of-hours PPD rate of \$48.72 will cease from 30 November 2024.

When the out-of-hours rate ceases, the usual business day rate of \$36.05 will apply to all COVID-19 vaccines administered.

Pricing item	Term	Charges (GST exclusive)
Business hours rate: COVID-19 vaccine PPD	1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025	\$36.05 per vaccine
Out-of-hours: COVID-19 vaccine PPD	1 July 2024 to 30 November 2024	\$48.72 per vaccine
Out-of-hours: COVID-19 vaccine PPD	1 December 2024 to 30 June 2025	\$36.05 per vaccine

Paxlovid Community Pharmacy Service From 1 July 2024:

Community Pharmacies will have the opportunity to continue to supply Paxlovid both pursuant to a prescription and as a pharmacist only medicine.

The proposed Paxlovid Community Pharmacy Service funding has been scaled down, compared to the previous Care in the Community Pharmacy service schedule.

The decision to continue to fund, at a reduced rate, pharmacist-initiated supply of Paxlovid has been taken to reduce winter pressures on primary care.

We are aware some community pharmacies do not wish to continue supplying Paxlovid or are considering whether to continue providing the service.

To understand what pharmacies in your area are supplying Paxlovid please refer to the relevant Healthpoint pages, which community pharmacies have been asked update.

- [Pharmacies supplying Paxlovid as a pharmacist only medicine](#)
- [Pharmacies supplying Paxlovid pursuant to a prescription](#)

In addition to supply through community pharmacy designated rural practices can also order Paxlovid via a practitioners supply order (PSO).

Pharmac's Role

Pharmac is responsible for the management of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. This includes funding, procurement, and supply.

In April 2024, Pharmac received funding for the ongoing purchase of COVID-19 vaccines and treatments. If Pharmac were to consider changes to the eligibility criteria, they will consult publicly to ensure feedback from the healthcare sector and the community is considered before making any changes.

For more information about COVID-19 vaccines and treatments, including eligibility criteria, visit the [Pharmac website](#).

Ngā mihi/Yours sincerely,



Martin Hefford

Director Living Well
National Commissioning