

Funding Package to Support Primary Care's Response to Covid-19

We have had a response from the MoH regarding direct funding support that will be provided to general practice. DHBs and the MoH recognise and value the critical role Primary Care is playing and will continue to play in the Covid-19 response.

The first component of the funding package is a one-off bulk down-payment to be distributed to all general practices to support them to meet the additional demands of Covid-19 including to establish capability to deliver virtual consultations. The payment is calculated for each general practice using 1 March 20 registers. The payment to each general practice will be the greater of the following amounts:

- \$4.50 per high needs patient (Maori, Pacific, Quintile 5/and or over 65 years
- \$1.50 for other patients, or
- \$2,500

This means that each general practice will receive a minimum of \$2,500.

In addition, general practices with more than 50% high needs will receive an additional payment of \$5,000.

This funding will be paid to you on 2nd April, or earlier depending on when it arrives in the PHO bank account. We will be passing 100% of this funding to our practice network.

In addition, financial stability of Primary Care is under significant review and it is likely you will receive a weekly payment to ensure stability. Pharmacy is also being looked at in the same way.

You can also expect to receive your SLM payment for the period 1 July 2019 to 31 December 2019 in the upcoming weeks.

Flu Vaccinations

All the current stock has been distributed. The next shipment will be available from 7th April. Any issues with stock, please contact Louise Goodall, louise@aucklandpho.co.nz

A message from Dr James Jap; Totara Hospice doctors will do prescribing during COVID-19 Pandemic crisis

"As we are all working during the current COVID-19 Pandemic crisis I have asked my team to write prescriptions for our patients who need medication changes, which diverts from our standard policy. This will be during the Pandemic crisis time as we know you GPs will be very busy with lots of other patient issues.

Thank you and wishing you well during these very different day"

James Jap

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Māori health

Uruta offers information for whānau, Māori providers, iwi and marae. It's been set up by Māori health professionals, and it is reliable and accurate. Go to Uruta: www.uruta.maori.nz

Ministry of Health Contact email

You can now email the Ministry of Health at info@health.govt.nz for elevating any issues or questions relating to protocols, e.g. what is the protocol or correct procedure/guidance for workers called in to do repairs in medical centres? (please use this sparingly as a lot of information can be found through the FAQ MOH Covid website or through Auckland Regional Healthpathways)

WINZ job seeker changes for the next six months

From Monday 30 March, for the next six-months MSD is:

- removing the need to provide subsequent medical certificates for clients already getting Job Seeker Support or Sole Parent Support.
- deferring any Disability Allowance reviews.
- delaying Annual Reviews (including all annual reviews of income, confirming your circumstances (CYC) and annual circumstances letters (ACL), social housing reviews, and life certificates).

Any new applicants for a Job Seeker Benefit with medical deferral of work obligations will still need to apply online (as all service centres are now closed) and will be granted a benefit (probably what is called an Emergency Benefit, which pays the same amount of money).

This will be true for all new benefit applications. The other key item is there will be no "stand down" period during this time.

ACC - ACC45 Changes

ACC will be waiving the requirement on its ACC45 form for health professionals to have 'personally examined the patient'. However, please note that the old wording may still appear on the current ACC45. This will only be the case during the COVID-19 response, and it's ACC's way of supporting the expansion of telehealth services.

You will still need to consider the cause of the injury when completing the ACC45 during a telehealth consultation. To be covered by ACC, your patient must have a personal injury caused by an accident or work-related gradual process, disease, or infection.

Medtech 32 Update Notification: ACC Telehealth - Initial Consultation COVID-19 Subsidy Update

In response to the recent escalation of the COVID-19 to Level 4, ACC will be enabling General Practices to provide initial consultations (in addition to follow-up consultations) via telehealth.

Please see attached for download instructions and further information.

A best use of PPE guideline for the Northern Region

A best use of PPE guideline for the Northern Region has now been finalised (please see guideline attached).

NZePS

All practices using Medtech are now set up in NZePS broker, which they can activate themselves. You will be able to activate it in the future if you don't do it now.

Medtech has a guide available on their Insight Customer Portal (regardless if you have no login) and have set up specific sections to provide users with access to the NZePS activation guides, user manuals and webinars.

<https://insight.medtechglobal.com/home-prelogin/covid-19-health-professional-advice/>

Attached is an activation guide and information about issuing CD prescriptions

Key points for practices / prescribers to note:

1. Communicate with your key local pharmacies - let them know that the practice has activated NZePS and started issuing barcoded prescriptions. All pharmacies are connected to NZePS.
2. Ensure all prescribers are familiar with using the following functions before they have a patient in front of them: (create some dummy scripts to do this)

Amend a Rx

Cancel a Rx

Reprint a Rx- (if lost, stolen etc) - this will print the prescription with exactly the same barcode as the original ensuring it can only be dispensed once.

Add a Comment for the Pharmacist

3. Script Nurse process - if you use this process it is the same as before NZePS. Do not use **Print and Park**.
4. Link to the NZePS Getting Started Guide - click on 'Setting up and Using NZePS' and found under 'Downloads'
 - Provides further information regarding Controlled Drugs (including Methadone prescribing).
 - Section on "Why it is important for pharmacy to scan and download all ePrescriptions"
 - For practice and pharmacy to realise the benefits of NZePS **ALL** barcoded ePrescriptions should be scanned at pharmacy.

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/ehealth/other-ehealth-initiatives/emedicines/new-zealand-eprescription-service>

5. FAQs Signature Exempt Prescriptions / Remote Prescribing

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/digital-health/other-digital-health-initiatives/emedicines/new-zealand-eprescription-service/signature-exempt-prescriptions-and-remote-prescribing>

6. Support - the support desk logs and manages all issues onlinehelpdesk@health.govt.nz (Reference NZePS)

CBAC Sites

A full list of the updated sites open for COVID-19 testing is attached.