

INTRODUCTION

Welcome back Friday Facts. We have missed you since COVID-19 started.

As the country moves into lesser levels of Alert, we are needing to focus on other matters, thus the resurrection of this two-page newsletter.

From the Auckland PHO team to our practice members – thank you for how you have looked after your patients and each other during the lockdown – and thank you for your kind messages of support.

COVID-19 ADVICE LINE FOR PRIMARY AND COMMUNITY HEALTH CLINICIANS: 0800 177 622

The Ministry of Health has contracted the National Telehealth Service to provide a dedicated COVID-19 telephone advice line for you and your colleagues. The number is 0800 177 622, and is now operational, offering clinical support and advice Monday to Saturday 8am -7pm (with the exception of public holidays). Further information is attached.

INFLUENZA STOCK UPDATE

We have been informed by the MoH influenza stock is running low despite an extra 400,000 vaccines that were brought into NZ pre COVID-19. The demand for influenza vaccinations has been higher than most years and it is unfortunate that we find ourselves again with an influenza vaccine shortage (and to be fair, not really PHARMAC's or MoH's fault!). They are attempting to source more vaccine from the northern hemisphere.

To date there has been a higher volume of vaccinations given, particularly to high needs and vulnerable populations.

Clinics who placed orders prior to 29th April may receive stock, but this cannot be guaranteed until after 10 May when further stock is due in the country.

CERVICAL SCREENING LEVEL 3 ADVICE

Please see the attached documents pertaining to Cervical Screening from the NCSP and MoH National Screening document. It indicates that NSU will be providing further information in due course on how to implement the current advice in Level 3.

Auckland PHO has sought further clarification from Jane Grant, Cervical Screening Nurse Specialist ADHB/WDHB, who advises that the Metro Auckland response for the commencement of cervical screening is currently being worked on and will be communicated through Medinz.

In the interim, while waiting for the information, we advise you to consider your planned approach to review and recall enrolled women with a High-Grade result who are now due or overdue, annual surveillance rescreens and priority populations groups.

We recommend considering how you would re-commence your recall processes and manage catch ups to ensure these women are recalled in a timely and safe manner.

If you would like to discuss, contact Carol.

FUNDING APPLICATION APPROVALS HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY EXTENDED

Special Authorities (SA), Named Patient Pharmaceutical Assessment (NPPA) and other exceptional circumstance approvals that were due to expire during March or April have now been extended for three months. Changes will be applied automatically in the Electronic Special Authority System. This means:

- Approvals due to expire on 31 March now expire on 30 June, 2020; approvals that expired before 31 March will not automatically be extended (a new submission will need to be made)
- Approvals due to expire on 30 April now expire on 31 July, 2020

If a SA renewal application is made before the new expiry date – and it is approved – then the extension will be automatically incorporated into the new approval, e.g. a six-month renewal for a SA that expired on 30 April will now be extended to 31 October. Renewals for NPPA approvals can be made before their expiry date, however, PHARMAC will continue to decide their duration on a case-by-case basis. [Read more here.](#)

Special Authority criteria have also been changed for a number of medicines during the COVID-19 pandemic to support the health sector by alleviating some testing or monitoring requirements that may otherwise interrupt access for some patients. The timeframe that these changes will remain in place has not yet been determined; PHARMAC will monitor and assess the situation as we move through different alert levels.

For a full list of [medicines with amended access criteria, see here.](#)

Hyoscine patches: as of 1 May 2020, [initial applications](#) for funded hyoscine hydrobromide patches (scopolamine) can now also be made for the symptomatic relief of respiratory secretions in patients receiving palliative care in the community if it is not possible to access injectable hyoscine (approvals valid for one month – this is a change related to the pandemic response).

MEDTECH32 UPDATE NOTIFICATION - ACC SUBSIDY - STP, PHYSIO, AND RURAL GP UPDATE (APRIL & MAY 2020)

ACC has approved Initial and Follow Up Telehealth services during the COVID-19 Alert Level 4 period for DHB Physiotherapist, Chiropractors and Podiatrists.

This update will install the subsidy updates for Telehealth services for Specified Treatment Providers & Physiotherapist Services contracts effective from the 8th April 2020.

This update also includes variations to the Rural GP contract services effective 1st May 2020.

Please arrange for installation at a time convenient to your practice

VIRTUAL CONSULTATIONS COUNT TOWARDS VISITS FOR HIGH USER HEALTH CARD

Virtual consultations can be counted towards the 12 or more health practitioner consultations required over a 12-month period to qualify for a high user health card (HUHC) in patients with an ongoing medical condition. This should be documented in the patient's notes.

For more [information on HUHCs, see here.](#)

FREE TRAINING IN CONTRACEPTION AND LARC INSERTION

Free training is available to become a LARC inserter. The Ministry of Health has contracted Family Planning to develop a national standard and require a list from every DHB on those interested in being trained to this standard. Interested trainees, please fill out the form attached to this notice below, so training schedules can be organised. Please provide as much detail as possible.

[information for training LARC inserters.xlsx](#) [9.6 KB]

PRACTICE NURSE VACANCY

Health Connections is seeking a permanent part time Registered Nurse. If you would like a copy of the position description, please email pat@healthconnections.co.nz. Please send your CV to pat@healthconnections.co.nz or call for an informal chat on 0210607636



Like us on Facebook

HTI VIRTUAL EDUCATION WEBINARS

ProCare will release a third tranche of High-Tech Imaging training virtually in a webinar. They envision this to be just applicable for knee and L-spine sessions with the shoulder and C-spine sessions delivered in person at a later stage.

Please note: TRANCHE TWO (Shoulder & C-Spine) sessions are still postponed. ProCare will send the session dates when we are able to resume and hold public gatherings (level 2).

TRANCHE THREE (Knee & L-Spine Webinar Training Sessions)

Happy to announce ProCare are launching the training sessions for Tranche 3 virtually - this means there are no limitations on the number of participants! This is open for both ProCare and non-ProCare GPs so please spread the word.

ProCare will have one session each per body site and we will review these subsequently. You must attend both sessions as part of your accreditation.

- Knee Training Session
Date: **Wednesday 6th May 2020**
Time: 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Zoom invite: <https://zoom.us/j/99433779620> (Meeting ID: 994 3377 9620)
- Lumbar Training Session
Date: **Wednesday 13th May 2020**
Time: 6:30pm – 7:30pm
Zoom invite: <https://zoom.us/j/94027613672> (Meeting ID: 940 2761 3672)

Please follow these simple instructions to ensure the webinar goes smoothly:

1. Register here so we can record your name, allocate the relevant CME points and give you the online course access:

TRANCHE 3 WEBINAR RSVP

2. Mute your microphone and turn cameras off to avoid any technical issues.

If you have questions during the webinar, please type it on the chat so we can answer all questions in the allocated time slot.