

17 May 2023

PHARMAC
PO Box 10254
The Terrace
Wellington 6143

Sent via email to: consult@pharmac.govt.nz

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Pharmac proposal for changes in the way Pulmonary Arterial Hypertension (PAH) treatments are funded

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the above consultation.

The Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand (Inc.) (the Guild) is a national membership organisation representing the majority of community pharmacy owners. We provide leadership on all issues affecting the sector and advocate for the business and professional interests of community pharmacy.

Our feedback on this consultation focuses on Guild members' concerns around general economic, funding and supply issues. Guild submissions should not be taken as any endorsement of, or any attempt to comment on, issues of safety, efficacy, or individual patient utility.

The Guild is supportive of the proposed changes in the way pulmonary arterial hypertension (PAH) is funded by transferring funded access for ambristentan, iloprost and epoprostenol to a standard Special Authority that would be aligned for all currently funded PAH treatments and amending the renewal periods of the PAH treatments that currently have a renewal period of one year to two years. We also support aligning diagnostic criteria for PAH with international guidelines and ensuring that clinicians working within their scope of practice can apply for funding for PAH treatments.

We see no general concern for community pharmacy and believe these proposed changes will facilitate timely access to appropriate funded medicine for people living with PAH and streamline the administrative process around these medicines for clinicians.

Thank you for your consideration of our response. If you have any questions about our feedback, please contact our Senior Advisory Pharmacists, Martin Lowis (martin@pgnz.org.nz, 04 802 8218) or Cathy Martin (cathy@pgnz.org.nz, 04 802 8214).

Yours sincerely,



Nicole Rickman
General Manager – Membership and Professional Services