

7 June 2023

PHARMAC  
PO Box 10254  
The Terrace  
Wellington 6143

Sent via email to: [consult@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:consult@pharmac.govt.nz)

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Proposal to fund bedaquiline and linezolid for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB)**

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.

We welcome the listings of bedaquiline 100mg tablets, linezolid 600mg tablets and linezolid 20mg/ml oral liquid for the treatment of multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 July 2023.

We also welcome the small pack size of bedaquiline 100mg tablets (24 tablets) to reduce wastage and resolve the previous concerns with managing the large and high-cost pack of bedaquiline through community pharmacies, as well as the removal of the need for people to access bedaquiline for MDR-TB via Pharmac's Named Patient Pharmaceutical Assessment (NPPA) process.

We believe that the availability of both medicines from community pharmacy, where appropriate, will enable people undergoing treatment for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (MDR-TB) to obtain these medicines from their local pharmacy, who they know and trust and obtain everyday advice from. It will also support community-based treatment for people with tuberculosis.

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](mailto:martin@pgnz.org.nz), 04 802 8218) or Cathy Martin ([cathy@pgnz.org.nz](mailto:cathy@pgnz.org.nz), 04 802 8214).

Yours sincerely,



**Nicole Rickman**  
General Manager – Membership and Professional Services