

26 June 2023

PHARMAC  
PO Box 10254  
The Terrace  
Wellington 6143

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

Dear Sir/Madam,

**Re: Proposal for new supply agreements for funded vaccines in the National Immunisation Schedule**

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 supports Pharmac entering into new supply agreements for funded vaccines that would result in continued supply of 13 currently funded brands of vaccines, changes to three brands of currently funded vaccines, a change to one type of funded vaccine, and no changes to ordering or distribution mechanisms for these vaccines.

We also welcome an update to Te Whatu Ora's Immunisation Handbook to reflect these proposed changes, if approved, so that this resource will be the single source of truth for vaccinators on the recommended timing of dosing for particular vaccines and catch-up programmes.

We would request that Pharmac reconsiders their decision not to fund different influenza vaccine technologies, such as adjuvanted influenza vaccine, high dose influenza vaccine and live attenuated influenza vaccine, especially if evidence shows that these different vaccine technologies would provide greater vaccine effectiveness against influenza-related medical encounters and death compared to the standard vaccines in high-risk populations.

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