

14 February 2025

ACC Pain Management Services Team
Recovery Services
Wellington - Justice Centre
ACC
19 Aitken Street
Wellington 6011

Sent via email to: painmanagement@acc.co.nz

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Expression of interest – ACC Pain Management Service Working Group

We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate and contribute to this important mahi. **We would like to nominate our Senior Advisory Pharmacists, Martin Lewis and Cathy Martin**, to participate in the proposed working group as representatives of the Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand and its community pharmacy members.

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

We are committed to advancing accessible, high-quality pain management services within community pharmacy. Building on our previous work in this space, including efforts to introduce a pharmacist-led, user-pays pain management service into community pharmacies, we are eager to contribute our expertise to the proposed ACC Pain Management Service Working Group.

Pharmacists are highly trained healthcare professionals, with an expertise in medicines, and play a vital role in supporting kiritaki with personalised management of acute and chronic pain through safe and effective medicine management, Medicines Use Reviews (MURs), deprescribing when appropriate, collaboration with other healthcare professionals, patient education, ongoing monitoring, and guidance on incorporating non-pharmacological strategies. As pharmacists increasingly continue to provide more patient-centred clinical services and integrated into collaborative care models—such as Hepatitis C test, treat and supply, Covid-19 antiviral medicines, and vaccinations—we believe now is the ideal time to establish a pain management service within community pharmacy.

The Guild actively supports pharmacy owners and pharmacists in enhancing their skills in pain management, including offering discounted access to the Australian PainWISE Pharmacy Professional Service programme. This evidence-based educational and consultation programme equips pharmacists with advanced knowledge and patient engagement strategies, aligning with the principles of the International Association for the Study of Pain and ACC's vision for a biopsychosocial approach to pain management. It also highlights the capability of community pharmacies to deliver these essential services.

We strongly advocate for the Guild's representation in this working group, given our extensive background in this area and our close collaboration with leading pain expert pharmacists, including Australia's Joyce McSwan, who led the successful Pain MedsCheck initiative. Joyce has

reaffirmed her commitment to supporting the Guild in an advisory capacity and has expressed a keen interest in staying informed, given her expertise and passion for this field. Her insights, combined with our sector-wide perspective, would add immense value in shaping a service that is both clinically robust and practically implementable.

Thank you for considering our expression of interest. We look forward to engaging with you further on this.

Kind regards,

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