

Pharmacy Services Expert Advisory Group (EAG)
Meeting 2 Minutes

Date	Thursday 7 November 2024
Time	9 am to 10 am
Independent Chair	Shenagh Gleisner
Attendees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alex de Roo • Andrew Bary • Andrew Gaudin • Astuti Balram (from 9.30) • Billy Allan • Bronwen Shepherd • Brooke McKay • Carissa Crow • Daniel Tsai • Joel Sathuluri • Keith Fraser • Kylie Head • Lisa Britton • Gareth Frew (invited)
Apologies	Alex Graham, Helen Connole

1. Welcome, introductions, apologies and minutes of the last meeting

Welcome: The Chair welcomed the group with a karakia

The minutes of the last meeting were approved and all actions arising completed.

Health NZ have been unsuccessful in sourcing Māori representatives. They asked the EAG if they could approach Health NZ's Hauora Māori Services for a representative from within Health NZ. A few of the members of the EAG have contacts amongst their networks and wished to try to find a suitable Māori representative before going to Hauora Māori Services. They are requested to contact Lisa Britton with their suggestions within two weeks.

ACTION: 20241107:1	EAG members to suggest people to be nominated as Māori representatives on EAG by 21 November 2024
--------------------	---

2. EAG work plan overview

Consumer representative suggestions

Some ideas to ensure a consumer focus in the work programme were presented to the EAG. Health NZ noted how the ideas could be incorporated into ongoing planning. All EAG members expressed their appreciation to the consumer representatives for this input.

The clozapine workstream update

Members of the working group reported on good progress. The work is likely to be complete by the end of November. It was agreed that the final documentation be sent for agreement by MedSafe and after this back to the EAG for formal approval.

ACTION: 20241107:2	Send the completed Clozapine documentation to MedSafe prior to formal approval by the EAG.
--------------------	--

3. Next steps for the Minor Health Conditions Service (MHCS)

Health NZ presented a summary of the MHCS pilot evaluation to the EAG. The presentation has been sent to the EAG. The positive results of this pilot were very promising, including the use of after-hours care in pharmacies, the engagement with Māori, the satisfaction of users and cost effectiveness (to mention a few). However, it was not possible to show systemic impact – e.g. decrease in demand for ED or general practice. There is no plan to roll out a nationwide MHCS service at this point, but Health NZ emphasised that they see the development of an enduring MHCS as part of the primary care development programme. Currently, however, funding cannot be confirmed.

Health NZ then presented an overview of the plans for an Extended Pharmacy service. The presentation has been sent to the EAG. It covered the relationship between MHCS, extended pharmacy services, locally commissioned services and locally created services. It mapped examples of acute/ongoing services in relation to complexity. For example, an ongoing service would be Pharmacy LTC and an acute and complex service could be antibiotics for minor skin infections. Health NZ suggested a subgroup aiming to build on expanding MHCS, to contribute to reduced demand of GP and ED services and to reduce variation.

The overall response from the EAG was positive. It was agreed that a working group of EAG could be set up to explore this initiative. Members of the EAG needed time to digest the comprehensive presentations and come back together in a few weeks to start an initial scoping of this work stream. Members of the EAG expressed the importance of moving as fast as possible on this proposal, as the need is high.

ACTION: 20241107:3	Run a meeting of the EAG in early December to discuss the scoping of a working group to progress the work on the extended pharmacy service.
--------------------	---

Summary of the actions

Number	Action	Date due
20241107:1	EAG members to suggest people to be nominated as Māori representatives on EAG by November 21st	21 November 2024
20241107:2	Send the completed Clozapine documentation to MedSafe prior to formal approval by the EAG	When complete
20241107:3	Run a meeting of the EAG in early December to discuss the scoping of a working group to progress the work on the extended pharmacy service.	Early December

Meeting Close 10 am.

Next Meeting: Date in early December to be notified.

Karakia whakamutunga: The Chair