

Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement National Annual Agreement Review 2024 Meeting 6, 30 August 2024

Statement

The sixth meeting of the 2024 Integrated Community Pharmacy Services Agreement (ICPSA) National Annual Agreement Review (NAAR) took place on Friday 30 August 2024 between Health New Zealand (Health NZ) and the pharmacy provider representatives.

For the last meeting of NAAR on 19 August 2024, the Pharmacy Guild (the Guild) had prepared a proposal in response to the Health NZ offer of a 2.51% uplift, given reasonable pharmacy cost pressures were quantified by Health NZ at 5.62%. The Guild proposal contained six measures aimed to address this gap. For the meeting on 30 August 2024, Health NZ had circulated a paper addressing the feasibility of implementing these measures. The main purpose of this meeting was for NAAR participants to consider the Health NZ response to these measures, and to jointly agree on the next steps.

All the measures were discussed, but with a particular focus on more closely exploring two areas; allowing pharmacies to surcharge for funding shortfalls and a nationwide funded minor health conditions service. Health NZ reiterated their commitment to work with the provider representatives on these and other matters but indicated that the timeframe for consideration and development was outside the NAAR 2024 process.

Noting that there is provision within the NAAR terms of reference to put contested advice for decision making to the Health NZ executives, and given consensus couldn't be reached, the Guild has decided to send their proposal for consideration to the Commissioner. The Guild advice and Health NZ advice will be sent to the Commissioner on Wednesday 4 September 2024.

Provider representatives are aware of the importance of moving quickly. While Health NZ staff can give no guarantee on timing, it is hoped that a response from the Commissioner will be prompt enough to enable discussion of the application of a finalised funding uplift offer across service lines at the next proposed meeting of NAAR on 10 September 2024.
