



The Royal New Zealand
College of General Practitioners
Te Whare Tohu Rata o Aotearoa

2 April 2025

Pharmac
Simpl House
Level 9/40 Mercer Street
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By email: Consult@Pharmac.govt.nz

Tēnā koe,

Funding Ryzodeg

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (the College) is the largest medical college in Aotearoa New Zealand with a membership of 6,018. Our General Practice Education Programme (GPEP) and Rural Hospital Medicine Training Programme (RHMTTP) trains the specialist General Practitioner and Rural Hospital Doctor workforce. The Medical Council of New Zealand accredits the College to deliver a Vocationally Registered workforce through its Continuing Professional Development Programme, making up 40 percent of the specialist medical workforce. The College is committed to prioritising the reduction of health inequities experienced by Māori, honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and the rights of Māori. To do this we prioritise initiatives that support our members to develop cultural safety capability through all our Training, Member Professional Development and Quality programmes.

Our members provide medical care to patients and their whānau. Each year approximately 24 million patient contacts are recorded in 1,077 general practice teams across Aotearoa. They deliver first point of contact care to effectively manage 90 percent of all patient healthcare concerns in the community.

The College supports the funding of Ryzodeg as doing so will help reduce inequities and barriers to care faced by patients with diabetes.

- Barriers to care for people with diabetes include, financial concerns social stigma, medication side effects and cognitive impairment.¹ Funding insulin options that reduce the onus on people to take medicine frequently will help them to manage their medication more effectively.
- The evidence of inequities in diabetes show that Māori and Pasifika populations are much more likely to have type-2 diabetes than pākehā, with diabetes being approximately 2.5 times and 5 times more prevalent respectively in these populations.² Household income is a determinant of health inequity, with economically disadvantaged households facing higher mortality rates than well-off households, and this inequity is rising.
- Most diabetes care is provided in community based general practice settings by general practice teams providing continuity of care. Having more funded treatment options will help specialist General Practitioners treat their patients' needs.³ The needs of patients can often vary, as comorbidities are frequent among patients with diabetes.
- Type 2 diabetes is expected to rise by 70-90% over the next twenty years in New Zealand and will place a significant burden on primary care.⁴ Funding effective options to manage the expected increase of diabetes presentations will benefit both patients and general practice teams.

The College requests that future consultations provide information on the opportunity cost of medicines which are being considered for funding. It would be helpful for submitters to understand the consequences of funding proposed medicines, such as knowing the other medicines that may be funded should the money be used elsewhere. Providing this information within the consultation documents will allow submitters to give a more thorough consideration of the cost-benefit of funding proposals.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this consultation.

If you require further clarification, please contact Maureen Gillon, Manager Policy, Advocacy, Insights – Maureen.Gillon@rnzcgp.org.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



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- ¹ Chepulis, Lynne & Morison, Brittany & Cassim, Shemana & Norman, Kimberley & Keenan, Rawiri & Paul, Ryan & Lawrenson, Ross. (2020). Barriers to Diabetes Self-Management in New Zealand Patients with Type 2 Diabetes and Poor Glycaemic Control. 10.21203/rs.3.rs-86639/v1
 - ² Holder-Pearson L, Chase JG. Socio-Economic Inequity: Diabetes in New Zealand. Front Med (Lausanne). 2022 May 10;9:756223. doi: 10.3389/fmed.2022.756223. PMID: 35620715; PMCID: PMC9127724.
 - ³ Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, *Submission on the Ministry of Health - Diabetes Action Plan 2022-2027*, 2022, Accessible: <https://www.rnzcgp.org.nz/documents/135/Submission-MOH-Diabetes-Action-Plan.pdf>
 - ⁴ Diabetes New Zealand, *Strategic Plan: Mahere Rautaki 2023-2030*, 2023, Accessible: <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a1b161b6957daf4c4f3b326/t/655a9cc106a38d0bd1c1866e/1700437187725/DNZ+Strategic+Plan+2023-2030+FINAL-LR.pdf> , [Accessed 28.03.25]