



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

20 March 2025

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Tēnā koe Chris

Migrating potential patient safety risk: Omeprazole 40mg and Flecainide 100mg capsules

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 (RHMT) 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 million¹ 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 issue

We acknowledge concerns raised by a pharmacist regarding the potential pharmacological harm to patients due to misidentification of medicines. Providing information to pharmacists will help raise awareness and mitigate the risks associated with Omeprazole 40mg capsules and Flecaidine 100mg capsules being supplied as identical. While we note that both products are approved by Medsafe, and comply with the legislative requirements for packaging and labelling, this issue warrants attention.

The College supports the PSNZ in raising awareness to mitigate the risk of harm to patients.

Our logo is attached for use in the PSNZ Alert – *Look alike medicines Omeprazole 40mg and Flecaidine 100mg*. Please note, this is for one time use in support of this advocacy and we would prefer it is used in a way that infers support rather than endorsement as this is a separate area of our organisation. Any collateral or communication where our logo is used needs prior approval from our Communications team, you can contact them on communications@rnzcgp.org.nz.

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

Nāku noa, nā

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¹ Ministry of Health, 2024 data.