



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

1 October 2025

Parmac
Simpl House
L9 40 Mercer Street
WELLINGTON 6011

By email: consult@pharmac.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Pharmac proposal to fund a new brand of methylphenidate for ADHD

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (the College) is the largest medical college in Aotearoa New Zealand, representing 6,018 members. Through our General Practice Education Programme (GPEP) and Rural Hospital Medicine Training Programme (RHMT), we train the specialist General Practitioner (GP) and Rural Hospital Doctor workforce. The Medical Council of New Zealand accredits the College to deliver a Vocationally Registered workforce via our Continuing Professional Development Programme, which comprises 40 percent of the specialist medical workforce.

The College is committed to reducing health inequities experienced by Māori, honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and upholding the rights of Māori. To achieve this, we prioritise initiatives that support our members in developing cultural safety capability across our training, professional development, and quality¹ programmes.

Our members are the first point of contact for medical care and support patients and their whānau. Collectively 1,085 general practice teams manage 90 percent of all healthcare concerns in the community, with approximately 24 million² patient contacts recorded each year across Aotearoa.

Our response

Given the current shortages, the College welcomes the proposal by Pharmac to expand the medication options for people with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

The proposal introduces an additional option for an extended-release formulation of methylphenidate to address the ongoing supply issues with the currently funded brand, Concerta.

Introducing a new brand of methylphenidate will help increase the overall supply and reduce the risk of future shortages. It also supports the upcoming changes in February 2026, when a broader group of health professionals, including specialist GPs and nurse practitioners, will be authorised to prescribe ADHD medicines.

Methylphenidate is a generic medicine registered by Medsafe, and we do not anticipate any concerns regarding its safety or efficacy.

However, GPs will need to have information on the two extended-release brands to effectively support their patients. It will be important to reassure patients that both brands contain the same active ingredient, and to encourage them to report any issues – this is consistent with current best practice.

For further clarification, please contact Maureen Gillon, Manager - Policy, Advocacy and Insights.
maureen.gillon@rnzcgp.org.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Dr Prabani Wood
BA, BMBCh, MPH, FRNZCGP
Medical Director | Mātanga Hauora
Nāku noa, nā

