



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

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Tēnā koe Meg

Proposed amendment to Medicines Regulations to enable authorised vaccinators to administer adrenaline without a standing order

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the proposal to enable authorised vaccinators to administer adrenaline without a standing order.

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (the College) is the largest medical college in New Zealand. Our membership of over 5,800 general practitioners and rural hospital doctors comprises 40 percent of New Zealand's specialist medical workforce. The Medical Council of New Zealand accredits the College to deliver vocational training to the specialist General Practitioner and Rural Hospital Doctor workforce. Our Kaupapa aspires to improve equity by upholding principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and supporting members to be culturally safe and competent through the General Practice Education Programme (GPEP), and the Division of Rural Hospital Medicine Training Programme (DRHMTP).

Our members provide effective care to their wider communities. The safety, quality and effectiveness of care provided by over 1,000 general practices and 24 rural hospitals is determined by the College's Practice Quality Programme, against the Foundation Standard and achievement of Cornerstone modules.

Te Akoranga a Māui is the College's Māori representative group. With more than 200 members, Te Akoranga a Māui is proud to be the first indigenous representative group established in any Australian or New Zealand medical college.

Our submission

The College supports the proposed amendment to enable authorised vaccinators to administer adrenaline and other medicines commonly used in immunisation programmes without requiring a prescription or standing order. We believe this change is a practical and necessary step that will enhance the delivery of immunisation services across Aotearoa New Zealand.

We agree that this amendment will improve safety, responsiveness, and efficiency—especially in emergency situations where timely administration of medicines such as adrenaline can be lifesaving. It will also benefit smaller providers and outreach services by reducing administrative barriers and enabling more agile responses to patient needs.

We further support the proposal to extend authorisation to include commonly used medicines such as liquid paracetamol and ibuprofen. These medicines play an important role in managing post-vaccination symptoms and improving patient comfort. We also endorse enabling supervised vaccinators to administer these medicines under appropriate oversight.

Conclusion

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on this important proposal. We welcome further engagement and look forward to supporting its successful implementation.

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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