



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

18 November 2025

Pharmac
PO Box 10254
The Terrace
WELLINGTON 6143

By email: consult@pharmac.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Proposal to fund access to infliximab, etanercept, secukinumab and rituximab

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the proposal relating to funded access to infliximab, etanercept, secukinumab and rituximab

The College supports Pharmac's proposal to simplify and align the Special Authority and Hospital Restriction criteria for infliximab, etanercept, secukinumab, and rituximab. These changes will reduce unnecessary administrative burden for health professionals and improve timely access to life-changing treatments for patients with long-term conditions.

Our members have told us that the current renewal process creates inefficiencies and wastes valuable clinical time. Specialists are often required to review well patients solely to complete paperwork for renewals, which adds cost and delays without improving patient outcomes. Streamlining these criteria will allow clinicians to focus on patient care rather than administrative tasks.

We also support proposals to extend approval durations, widen the number of prescribers who can apply, and allow lifetime approvals where clinically appropriate. These changes will improve equity of access, particularly for patients in rural and underserved communities, and reduce barriers caused by limited specialist availability.

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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About the College

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