



2 April 2026

Pharmac
PO Box 10254
The Terrace
WELLINGTON 6143

By email: consult@pharmac.govt.nz

Tēnā koe

Pharmac consultation on Updating the Pharmaceutical Schedule for ambulance medicines, and tenecteplase for pre-hospital use

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (the College) welcomes the opportunity to provide comment on the Pharmac consultation to ensure a more coordinated approach to funding and procurement decisions for emergency medicines for PRIME proviers.

The College rerepresents 6,018 Specialist GPs, who make up 40 percent of Aotearoa New Zealand's medical workforce. We are committed to achieving health equity for Māori, honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and strengthening culturally safe practice across our membership. Our priorities are patient safety, a sustainable workforce, and equitable access to high quality primary care.

Our submission has been informed by feedback from rural Specialist GPs and Specialist Rural Hospital Doctors, who highlight the practical challenges of accessing and administering emergency medicines in remote settings.

Our position:

- We understand that access to the listed medicines will not change and may improve because of Pharmac's greater purchasing power. If this is correct, the College is broadly supportive and does not see any material downside, given Pharmac's experience and responsibility for ensuring continuity of supply. If it also makes it easier for individual practices to obtain these medicines, that would be an additional benefit.
- Some rural hospitals are large enough to employ pharmacists and utilise the PRIME standing orders. These are drawn directly from the Hato Hone St John Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs)ⁱ, with support from their clinical desk for complex situations. As a result, aligning with these overall recommendations should be appropriate.
- It worth noting that there are PRIME practices who will be purchasers. As I'm not aware of the mechanics of this, I've cc'd Mark Smith, who may also be able to circulate it amongst the rural GP chapter for comment.

In summary, the Chapter of Specialist GPs and the DRHM agree with the system proposed by Pharmac.

Nāku noa, nā

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Medical Director | Mātanga Hauora

[About the College](#)

ⁱ St John. Clinical procedures and Guidelines. Comprehensive edition. 2019 – 2022
<https://www.stjohn.org.nz/globalassets/documents/health-practitioners/clinical-procedures-and-guidelines---comprehensive-edition.pdf> - Pocket edition. <https://www.stjohn.org.nz/globalassets/documents/health-practitioners/clinical-procedures-and-guidelines---pocket-edition.pdf>

