



Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

Minute of Decision

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Removing Barriers to Electronic Prescribing and Improving Access to Medicines

Portfolio Health

On 10 August 2022, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **noted** that hard copy prescriptions are provided for under the Medicines Regulations 1984;
- 2 **noted** that electronic prescriptions are enabled through an alternative form of prescription authorised by the Director-General of Health under the Medicines Regulations 1984;
- 3 **noted** that prescriptions for controlled drug medicines are subject to additional requirements under the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977, and that these additional requirements prohibit prescribing of controlled drug medicines from being fully implemented into electronic prescribing systems;
- 4 **agreed** to amend the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977 to enable prescribing controlled drug medicines electronically through an approved system;
- 5 **agreed** to amend the Medicines Regulations 1984 to provide for electronic prescribing through an approved system within regulations;
- 6 **noted** that currently Class B controlled drugs can only be prescribed up to a quantity sufficient for use for a period of one month;
- 7 **agreed** to amend the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977 to allow prescribers to increase the quantity of Class B controlled drugs being prescribed, provided that:
 - 7.1 the total amount being prescribed must not be greater than a quantity sufficient for use for a period of three months;
 - 7.2 the quantity dispensed must not be greater than a quantity sufficient for use for a period of one month;
 - 7.3 the prescription is generated and dispensed electronically on a New Zealand ePrescription Service (NZePS) compatible prescribing system and transmitted through the NZePS;
- 8 **agreed** to amend the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977 to ensure designated prescriber nurses can continue to prescribe tramadol and zopiclone;

- 9 **agreed** to amend the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977 to ensure designated pharmacist prescribers can continue to prescribe tramadol, zopiclone and zolpidem;
- 10 **authorised** the Minister of Health to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to give effect to the above decisions.

Rachel Clarke
Committee Secretary

Present:

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Hon Grant Robertson
Hon Kelvin Davis
Hon Dr Megan Woods
Hon Chris Hipkins
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)
Hon Andrew Little
Hon David Parker
Hon Poto Williams
Hon Damien O'Connor
Hon Peeni Henare
Hon Willie Jackson
Hon Jan Tinetti
Hon Kiri Allan
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan
Hon Aupito William Sio
Hon Meka Whaitiri

Officials present from:

Office of the Prime Minister
Office of the Chair
Officials Committee for SWC

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