

Appendix Four. Comparison with other clinical and prescribing situations

Table 1: Comparative examples of safety approaches in other decision-making processes involving special clinical and prescribing situations

Example	Concern	How it is handled
Fluoxetine for childhood depression	Fluoxetine is a Selective Serotonin Reuptake Inhibitor (SSRI) medicine used to treat depression. There are both risks and benefits identified for its use in children.	Approved by Medsafe for adults 18 years and over, and can be prescribed for children with guidance in the NZ Formulary for Children.
Methylphenindate for ADHD	Used to treat ADHD but also misused as a recreational drug and had been restricted for that reason. Methylphenindate has both substantial benefits for children with ADHD, along with potentially significant rare adverse effects.	The Government asked Medsafe, Pharmac and the Ministry to look at reducing restrictions in order to improve access. Renewal criteria were removed by Pharmac in 2024 to make it easier to continue receiving the medication.
Clozapine for treatment resistant schizophrenia	Clozapine is an antipsychotic used to treat schizophrenia with both high potential benefits and life-threatening adverse reactions, and a patient group not always able to consent to treatment or to reliably report emerging health problems.	Clozapine is approved by Medsafe for patients 16 years and older, and guidance is available in the NZ Formulary for Children for use in younger children.
Welfare guardianship	Welfare guardianship involves a court-appointed individual making decisions about a person's personal care and welfare when they lack the capacity to do so themselves.	Governed by special processes under the Protection of Personal and Property Rights Act 1988
End of life choice	Development of the End of Life Choice Act involved ethical, moral, and legal considerations regarding assisted dying.	The End of Life Choice Act 2019 legalised assisted dying under strict criteria with safeguards in place such as requiring agreement from at least two medical practitioners, and ensuring the patient is competent in making a fully informed decision.
Care of children	Protecting the welfare and best interests of children and ensuring their views be taken into account in matters affecting them.	Governed by special processes under the Care of Children Act 2004.