Aide-Mémoire

Meeting with the Clinical Advisory Pharmacists Association

Date due to MO:	10 November 2025	**Meeting:**	13 November 2025
Security level:	IN CONFIDENCE	**Reference:**	H2025074119
To:	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
Consulted:	Health New Zealand: ☐		
Proactive release:	This **title** is proposed by the Ministry of Health for proactive release: ☒		

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Suzanne Townsend	Manager Regulatory Policy, Health System Settings, Strategy & Policy	s 9(2)(a)
Billy Allan	Clinical Chief Advisor, Medicines, Strategy & Policy	

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

Aide-Mémoire

Meeting with the Clinical Advisory Pharmacists Association

Date due:	10 November 2025		
To:	Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health		
Security level:	IN CONFIDENCE	**Reference:**	H2025074119

About the Meeting

Purpose of Meeting	The Clinical Advisory Pharmacists Association (CAPA) have requested to meet with you to discuss the role of pharmacist prescribers in the health system, the benefit they provide, and barriers to future expansion of the speciality.
Details of Meeting	**Date:** 13 November 2025 **Time:** 10:15am-10:35am **Venue:** EW6.6
Attendees	• Penny Clark, CAPA Chair • Dr Linda Bryant, Previous Chair • Pauline McQuoid, CAPA Member
Organisation	CAPA advocates for specialist clinical pharmacy services in New Zealand.
Official Representatives	Billy Allan, Clinical Chief Advisor, Medicines – Ministry of Health
Summary	This briefing provides background information on pharmacist prescribers and CAPA, attendee information, advice on topics for discussion: • Your understanding of the role that pharmacist prescribers play in the health system and their potential to benefit the system. • Constraints to the growth of pharmacist prescribers as a profession and the settings necessary for a positive future direction.

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

Context

The Clinical Advisory Pharmacist Association (CAPA)

1. CAPA is an advocacy organisation of specialist pharmacists. Members must hold a current pharmacist practicing certificate, in addition to a post graduate pharmacy

qualification, and be offering specialist pharmacy services. Such as: prescribing, medication reviews, or clinical appointments.

2. They seek to raise the prominance of specialist pharmacy services within the health system and promote it as a career pathway.

Pharmacist prescribers

3. The postgraduate course, required to qualify as a pharmacist prescriber, has been offered in New Zealand since 2012.

4. Of the approximately 2400 pharmacists registered and entitled to practise, 99 are pharmacist prescribers. Currently, pharmacist prescribers do not operate in community pharmacy, due to barriers to them operating at their full scope of practice. The government is committed to ensuring all health workers are empowered to act in accordance with their expertise and best practice. Therefore, we are removing barriers for pharmacist prescribers and are allowing greater access to medicines.

5. The Medicines Amendment Bill, currently awaiting third reading, will enable pharmacist prescribers to prescribe unapproved medicines where appropriate, increasing their flexibility and care options. The bill will also remove the restriction on prescribers, including pharmacist prescribers, from owning their own pharmacy.

6. Following consultation, the Ministry is preparing to expand the medicines list for pharmacist prescribers and nurse prescribers. Recommendations will go to the Director-General for a decision and gazettal at the end of November. The controlled drugs on the list will require a regulation change.

Comprehensive Primary and Community Care Teams (CPCT)

7. The 2022 budget set aside funds for the creation of Comprehensive Primary and Community Care Teams (CPCT). These are intended to expand the skills available in general practice to meet patients' needs.

8. Pharmacist prescribers can be part of these teams. CAPA credits this innovation in part for encourgaing the growth of interest in a career as a pharamacist prescriber. Funding is set to expire after June 2026.

You have asked officials for advices on the future of pharmacy services.

Agenda items

Understanding pharmacist prescribers

9. CAPA want to highlight how specialised and highly trained pharmacist prescribers are as healthcare practitioners, requiring 7+ years of study to qualify. They work alongside other health professionals in both general and secondary practice.

Potential to benefit the health system

10. CAPA believe that pharmacy prescribers can offer additional benefit to the health system. Such as increasing capacity in the health system by relieving pressure on hospitals via a shift to primary practice which can reduce service costs and harm.

Barriers to expansion of pharmacist prescribing

11. CAPA perceive pharmacist prescribers as suffering from under-recognition and underestimation as a profession. They are concerned that the cease of funding for CPCT

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

after June 2026 will result in uncertainty for the profession, relying on GPs to fund ongoing roles.

12. They also claim that legislative barriers exist which reduce the scope of the role, restricting both usefulness and growth.

Growing the pharmacist prescriber workforce

13. CAPA have ideas on how to grow the number of pharmacist prescribers and add value to health system. They suggest that pharmacist prescribers be considered in health workforce planning and that Health NZ offer additional incentives to spur growth in the profession.

s 9(2)(g)(i)

[redacted]

Manager, Regulatory Policy,
Strategy & Policy

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

Appendix 1: Attendee list and biographies

Penny Clark

Chair

Penny is a pharmacist prescriber and has been working in Hamilton since 2011. Originally a hospital clinical pharmacist, her career includes undertaking clinical medication reviews for patients in aged residential care and primary care as well as community pharmacy practice, before moving to general practice

Linda Bryant

Previous Chair

Linda began her career in hospital pharmacy and then moved into primary care as a pharmacist facilitator working with general practitioners to improve prescribing. She is a pharmacist prescriber in two practices in the Wellington region. She has been awarded Fellowships by the NZ Hospital Pharmacists Association, the NZ College of Pharmacists, the Pharmaceutical Society of NZ, a gold medal from the Pharmaceutical Society of NZ, and the NZ Order of Merit.

Pauline McQuoid

CAPA Member

Pauline started in hospital pharmacy, eventually becoming the Director of Pharmacy at Wellington Hospital. In 2008 she was a founding partner in establishing Medwise Limited, an innovative and distinctive model of pharmacist service delivery. She is the clinical lecturer for the University of Auckland pharmacist prescribing course

PROACTIVELY RELEASED