

25 June 2026

s 9(2)(a)

By email: s 9(2)(a)
Ref: H2026083196

Tēnā koe s 9(2)(a)

Response to your request for official information

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) to the Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) on 27 May 2026 for:

“I'd like to ask Medsafe for more information on the electronic medication lockers that the news media reported on last year.

And I'd also like to ask the Ministry of Health about it.

Why have they not progressed? What is stopping it and holding it up? It seemed like Medsafe said they didn't have the ability to bring them in and if that is the case what changes would be required to bring them in?

What work has happened on them since last year? I think they'd be a great idea but want to know what's held it up.”

Medsafe, the New Zealand Medicines and Medical Devices Safety Authority within the Ministry, is responsible for administering parts of the Medicines Act 1981, the Misuse of Drugs Act 1975, and related regulations. This includes the pharmacy licensing framework.

Medsafe is supportive of initiatives that improve access to medicines. However, there is currently no mechanism under the Medicines Act to enable the use of electronic medication lockers.

Under the Medicines Act, pharmacy services must occur on a licensed pharmacy premises and under the immediate supervision and control of a pharmacist. Electronic medication lockers located outside of a pharmacy would not meet these requirements.

The Ministry is aware of this issue and work is being progressed to enable the use of electronic medication lockers in pharmacies.

In April this year, Cabinet considered the issue of electronic medication lockers and noted their potential benefits for improving customer access. Cabinet agreed that, as part of the development of the Medical Products Bill, enabling the use of electronic medication lockers should be progressed as a fast-tracked amendment to the Medicines Act 1981. Subject to Parliamentary and Government decisions on the Bill, this could allow for electronic medication lockers to be permitted from late 2027.

Further information is available here:

- www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2026-05/Briefing-Fast-track-improvements-to-medicines-regulation-under-the-Medical-Products-Bill-%28H2026079093%29.pdf
- www.health.govt.nz/system/files/2026-05/Cabinet-paper-Medical-Products-%28Sunscreen-Regulations-and-Other-Policy-Matters%29-Bill.pdf

I trust this information fulfils your request. If you wish to discuss any aspect of your request with us, including this decision, please feel free to contact the OIA Services Team on: oiagr@health.govt.nz.

Under section 28(3) of the Act, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request. The Ombudsman may be contacted by email at: info@ombudsman.parliament.nz or by calling 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/responses-official-information-act-requests.

Nāku noa, nā



Chris James
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Medsafe