

Funding Medicines in New Zealand: Update of the Medicines Waiting List to 30 June 2019

Most common process for funding modern prescription medicines in New Zealand ¹



The Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (PTAC) is made up of clinical experts who make recommendations on which medicines PHARMAC should publicly fund. Despite the committee’s expert status, PHARMAC is not bound to follow its recommendations.

What is the Medicines Waiting List? ²

The Medicines Waiting List shows how long patients have been waiting for medicines that have been recommended by PTAC but are not yet funded by PHARMAC.³ It only includes medicines that have received positive recommendations. PTAC can be expected to decline any medicines that would not positively benefit patients and the health system.

Average time waiting



and counting



Includes **105** new listings in areas such as:

- Cancer: 17
- Diabetes: 12
- Cardiovascular: 12
- Rare disorders: 6
- Mental health: 6

+ **33** recommendations for widened access



Includes



high priority recommendations

Longest waiting time for a medicine



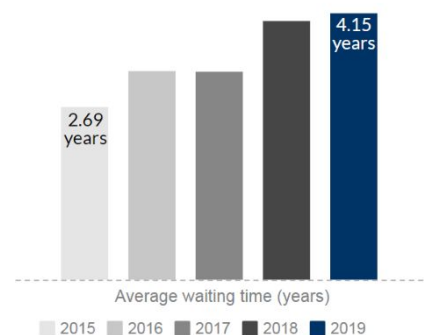
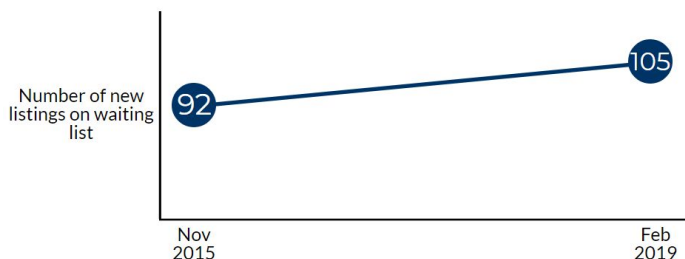
and counting

Note: *New listings* = applications for medicines not currently funded by PHARMAC.

Widened access = applications to widen access to medicines currently funded by PHARMAC for specific groups of patients only.

The Medicines Waiting List continues to grow ²

On average, a net increase of



The future of the Medicines Waiting List ²

PHARMAC has recently announced that it will fund some specific waiting list medicines from December 2019.^{4,5} Without an increase in transparency and clear decision timeframes, it is unknown whether PHARMAC will fund the full waiting list of recommended medicines and if so, when that will occur. The existence of a waiting list of more than 100 recommended medicines is evidence that PHARMAC’s funding processes and budget levels require review. Without a review, the waiting list is likely to continue to exist – if not grow.

References

1. Medicines New Zealand. New Zealand's Medicines Landscape 2018/19. Retrieved from https://www.medicinesnz.co.nz/fileadmin/user_upload/New_Zealand_Medicines_Landscape_2018-19_Final.pdf
2. Medicines New Zealand. Funding of Medicines in New Zealand: Revision of the Medicines Waiting List to 30 June 2019. Retrieved from https://www.medicinesnz.co.nz/fileadmin/user_upload/Medicines_Waiting_List_to_30_June_2019.pdf
3. In New Zealand, the Pharmaceutical Management Agency (PHARMAC) decides which medicines will receive public funding, following advice from the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (PTAC).
4. PHARMAC. Proposal for funding of oncology, multiple sclerosis and respiratory treatments. <https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/news/consultation-2019-08-07-various/> (accessed 23 August 2019).
5. PHARMAC. News. <https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/news/consultations> (accessed 2 September 2019).