The Medicines List for registered nurse prescribing in primary health and specialty teams

The Nursing Council consulted on the list of medicines in 2013. The medicines list has been developed from the New Zealand Formulary and the Community Pharmaceutical Schedule. The list contains commonly used medicines for common conditions and is not an inclusive list. Patient access to subsidised medicines was a key consideration of the proposal so medicines that were not funded at that time have, in most cases, been excluded from the list. The decision was made to create a list that could be modified in the future as new medicines are funded and/or existing medicines are no longer recommended or superseded.

Under the Medicines Act 1981 Section 105(5B), the Director-General of Health specifies prescription medicines by notice in the Gazette for designated prescribers. Before making such a notice the Director General must consult with those organisations or bodies that appear to be representative of persons likely to be affected by the notice in the Gazette.

Any modifications to the list of medicines must be consulted on and be approved by the Director-General of Health. The Council expects to develop guidance on the information it will require before considering the inclusion of a medicines on the list in the future. It is likely that changes to the list will not be made for 12-24 months.