

Upcoming issues and events

Subject	Timeframe	Details
COVID-19 and supply issues	<i>Ongoing</i>	<p>PHARMAC has put in place Pharmaceutical Schedule rule changes to restrict the dispensing of funded community medicines to just one month's supply at a time. We are working with all our providers – both medicine suppliers and medical device suppliers – to minimise any impacts on the general supply chain of manufacturing disruptions caused by shutdowns.</p> <p>PHARMAC will also continue to work with our suppliers and the National Health Coordination Centre (Ministry of Health) to ensure that our healthcare providers – both in the community and in hospitals – have the medicines and medical devices they will need should there be more cases of COVID-19.</p>

Out of Scope

Media responses

Subject	Media outlet	Details
Fluoxetine	NZ Herald	Provided a response to questions on fluoxetine stock issues. Story still to run.
Influenza	Sunday Star Times	Provided response to questions on influenza vaccine supply following concerns from GPs

Out of Scope

		that stock was running low. Story ran on Sunday.
	Newshub	Provided response to questions on influenza vaccine supply following concerns from GPs that stock was running low. Story ran on Wednesday but didn't include PHARMAC's response as focused on distribution not on supply.
	Stuff	Provided response to questions on influenza vaccine supply following concerns from GPs that stock was running low. Story ran on Thursday.
	NZ Herald	Forwarded questions to MoH as were on distribution and not on supply.
Out of Scope		
Special Authorities	Radio NZ	Lisa Williams did an initial interview with Guyon on the work PHARMAC is doing to review special authorities. The story ran on Morning Report on Tuesday.
	TVNZ	TVNZ asked for two interviews with Lisa Williams – one on TV1 News and one on Breakfast. We agreed to the first and the story ran on Tuesday.
	NZ Doctor	We provided a statement to NZ Doctor on Special Authorities.

Official Information Act responses sent or received this week

Requestor	Request	Date
s9(2)(a)	Covid 19 Disruption of Medicine Supply	Received 31 March
s9(2)(a)	Levothyroxine supplies	Sent 31 March

Out of Scope

Out of Scope



No surprises and communications updates sent to Ministers Office this week

Date	Information supplied
30 March 2020	A no surprises was sent to Minister Clark's office on fluoxetine

Out of Scope

30 March 2020

A briefing on - COVID-19 update on PHARMAC's planning for supply chain management - was sent to Minister Clark's office

IN CONFIDENCE
Released under the Official Information Act

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Out of Scope

Media responses

Subject	Media outlet	Details
Special Authorities	Stuff	Provided statement on special authorities.

Out of Scope

Influenza	NZ Herald	Provided responses to questions on the supply of influenza vaccine.
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Out of Scope

Fluoxetine	Stuff	Provided an update on the disruption to the supply of fluoxetine.
	Stuff NZ Herald	Provided an update on the arrival of the fluoxetine stock.
Special authorities and the website page 'suggested funding changes'	NZ Doctor	Asked if we would be continuing the special authorities changes and the page we have created on our COVID-19 page on suggested funding changes. We are working on our response to this today (Thursday 9 April)

Out of Scope

Relea

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Out of Scope

Media responses

Subject	Media outlet	Details
Fluoxetine	Stuff	Provided reassurance to the two requests from Stuff journalists that fluoxetine has arrived in New Zealand and is being distributed out to community pharmacies.
Ritalin	Stuff	Confirmed that there are no stock shortages of Ritalin.

Act

Out of Scope

Noriday

Stuff

Provided information on a stock shortage of Noriday and a link to more information on our website.

Out of Scope

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Out of Scope



No surprises and communications updates sent to Ministers Office this week

Date	Information supplied
16 April 2020	A No Surprises briefing was sent to Minister Clark on automatically extending Special Authorities

Out of Scope

