

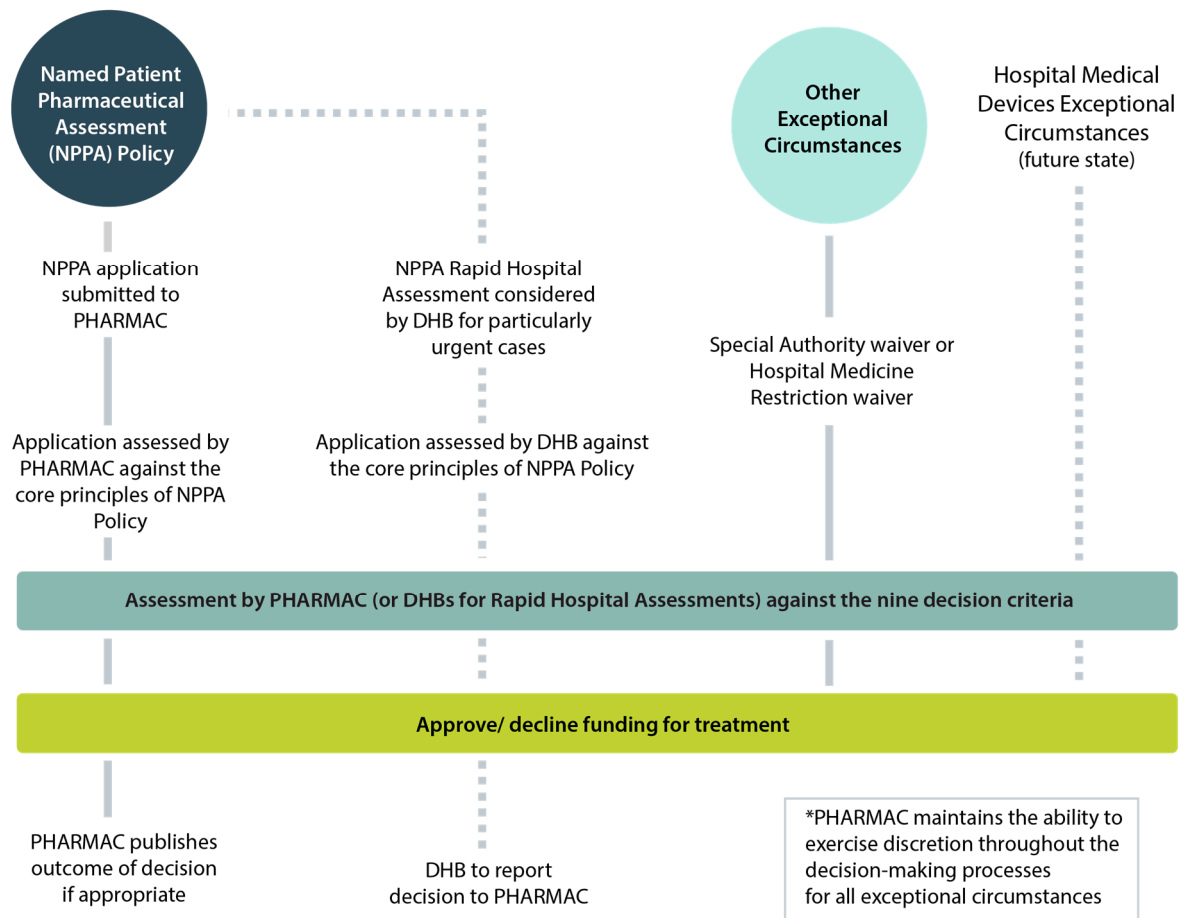
31 August 2015

Notification to stakeholders

Exceptional Circumstances Framework 'Go-Live' notification

PHARMAC is pleased to announce that our new Exceptional Circumstances Framework has now been implemented. The [Exceptional Circumstances Framework](#) includes a revised Named Patient Pharmaceutical Assessment (NPPA) Policy which makes applying easier.

Exceptional Circumstances Framework



We have streamlined and simplified the application process. This includes a new online application form which is only accessible via the Connected Health Network (CHN). It includes a number of great features to make the application process easier. For people who do not have access to the CHN, a simplified, user-friendly form is available in Microsoft Word format. You can find more details about the Exceptional Circumstances Framework, including the new application forms on our [website](#). We have also produced clearer supporting information on the process for clinicians and patients.

The new framework clarifies the ways that PHARMAC generally considers funding decisions in exceptional circumstances that fall outside of the Pharmaceutical Schedule funding process.

This means exceptions that sit outside the NPPA policy are more visible, including Special Authority waivers and Hospital Medicine Restriction waivers. In the future, an exceptions process for hospital medical devices would be included within this framework.

The NPPA policy sits within the Exceptional Circumstances Framework and has been revised and simplified. The feedback we received was that the NPPA policy was difficult to interpret and apply, and the application process could be cumbersome. While the intent of the NPPA policy has not changed, we have made changes to ensure the policy is clearer and easier to use. This includes the removal of the two NPPA pathways; urgent assessment (UA) and unusual clinical circumstances (UCC) and the prerequisites that sat within these pathways. These have been replaced with the three core principles of the NPPA policy. These principles will guide the application and decision-making process.