

**Minutes of the
Supplier Advisory Panel Meeting
Wednesday 8 July 2026**

This meeting was held online from 2:00pm to 3:30pm

Present:

Members:

Francis Lawes (Pfizer) – Chair
Lindsay Ancelet (GSK)
Kylie Earle (Sanofi)
Kate King (Medtronic)
Michaela Lion (AbbVie)
Matt Needham (Roche)
Angela Pantano (Roche Diagnostics)

Pharmac staff attendees

Karl McDiarmid (Programme Director)
Danielle Campbell (Reset Project Manager)
Ben Campbell-Macdonald (Manager, Pharmaceutical Assessment)
Caroline De Luca (Principal Technical Specialist)
David Bowers-Mason (Portfolio Coordinator)
Augusta Connor (Principal Technical Specialist)
Josh Wiles (Senior Therapeutic Group Manager)

Apologies

Liz Naylor (AstraZeneca)

Karakia and welcome

The meeting was opened by the Chair.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved.

Action items

Members reviewed the status of open action items:

- Closed: the extended 90-minute meeting duration agreed at the June meeting has been implemented

- Open: Pharmac to arrange a supplier group meeting in late July or early August.

Interest register

No new interest declarations.

Timely Assessment Programme Update

Pharmac provided an update on work delivered through the Reset Programme and outlined priorities for the first year of the Timely Assessment Programme (TAP). Key areas of focus include reducing the historical application backlog, improving advice and assessment efficiency, strengthening reporting and data quality, reviewing expert advice processes, and enhancing consumer engagement.

Assessment Timeframes

Pharmac confirmed its continued focus on introducing and monitoring an 18-month assessment timeframe target. Members discussed the importance of transparency around assessment progress and future reporting measures.

Consumer and Patient Engagement

Pharmac provided an update on plans to establish a new Consumer and Patient Advisory Committee. The new arrangements are intended to support consumer input into Pharmac's work and provide advice to the Board.

Assessment Process Improvements

Members and Pharmac discussed opportunities to improve assessment processes, including application acceptance processes, workflow efficiency, and developing the role of consumer input in expert advice. Pharmac noted that review work is underway and future proposals will be shared with advisory groups for feedback.

Members requested guidance around whether Pharmac has a minimum threshold for cost-effectiveness in the assessment process. Pharmac explained that it does not as all proposals are ranked on the OFI regardless of their level of cost-effectiveness.

Medical Devices

Pharmac outlined ongoing work with Health New Zealand to continue to establish medical devices assessment processes and priorities. Further engagement with stakeholders is planned as this work develops.

Low Risk Assessment Pathway (LRAP)

Pharmac provided an update on the Low Risk Assessment Pathway pilot, previously referred to in these minutes (April 2026) as the application backlog pilot.

Members and Pharmac discussed the future of the LRAP process after Pharmac's backlog is reduced. Members queried the possibility of Pharmac utilising information from existing applications to achieve efficiencies in addition to those achieved by LRAP, and Pharmac confirmed it would be considering other ways to gain efficiency as part of its work in TAP. Members also queried the possibility of Pharmac giving clear public criteria for LRAP assessment.

Programme Delivery Office update

Pharmac provided an overview of the Programme Delivery Office (PDO) structure and resources supporting delivery of the Timely Assessment Programme and Digital Programme.

Pharmac noted that current work includes:

- Timely Assessment Programme delivery.
- Redevelopment of the Pharmaceutical Schedule.
- Exploration of AI opportunities.
- Contract and supply management improvement work.
- Additional future digital initiatives.

Supplier Engagement

Members expressed their willingness to contribute ideas and share experiences from other jurisdictions to support Pharmac's improvement work. Pharmac welcomed this offer and confirmed that it would be considering the best way to seek feedback as programme planning progresses.

Key Messages

- The Timely Assessment Programme is now underway and focused on improving assessment timeliness and transparency.
- Work continues to reduce the historical application backlog and improve assessment processes.
- Work to review the expert advice process will soon commence.
- New consumer advisory arrangements are being established to strengthen consumer input into processes.
- Pharmac will continue engaging with suppliers and other stakeholders as improvement initiatives are developed.

Close of meeting at 3:30pm.

Next meeting: 12 August 2026.