

Minutes of the Supplier Advisory Panel Meeting

Wednesday 12 August 2026

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

Present:

Members

Francis Lawes (Pfizer) – Chair

Lindsay Ancelet (GSK)

Kylie Earle (Sanofi)

Olivia Fenwick (MSD)

Matt Needham (Roche)

Kate King (Medtronic)

Pharmac staff attendees

Karl McDiarmid (Programme Director)

Danielle Campbell (Project Manager)

Claire Pouwels (Principal Technical Specialist)

Augusta Connor (Principal Technical Specialist)

Caroline De Luca (Principal Technical Specialist)

David Bowers-Mason (Programme Coordinator)

Alison Yeung (Business Analyst)

Brian Nevin (Project Manager)

Apologies

Angela Pantano (Roche Diagnostics)

Karakia and welcome

The meeting was opened by the Chair.

The Panel welcomed new member Olivia Fenwick and acknowledged Michaela Lion's contribution to the group following her departure from the Panel.

Minutes of previous meeting

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved without amendment.

Action items

Members reviewed open actions.

- Open: Pharmac to arrange a wider supplier meeting. Pharmac advised that planning is underway, with a tentative timeframe of October 2026. Further details will be provided at the next meeting.

Interest register

No new interest declarations were recorded.

Timely Assessment Programme (TAP) Update

Assessment timeframes

Pharmac provided an update on development of the proposed 18-month timeframe measure from application acceptance to ranking. Pharmac staff thanked SAP members for the written feedback on the 18-month measure ahead of the discussion. Pharmac also noted the policy paper authored by the Medicines NZ Policy and Solutions Working Group which advocated for greater timeliness and a 12-month timeframe.

Members discussed that:

- The proposed start- and end-points for the 18-month timeframe were important milestones in Pharmac's process.
- If requirements of applicants changed, this would need to be clearly communicated if application acceptance (pending those requirements being met) continued to be used as the starting point for measurement.
- It is important for application acceptance to be timely and in some instances historically, it had been delayed. Starting the 18-month timeframe earlier, at receipt of application, was noted to be one way to raise the visibility and accountability for timely acceptance. However, members noted that there are

other options to achieve timely acceptance and were supportive of Pharmac reviewing and updating early process stages with timeliness as a goal.

- Any information to help applicants predict the timeframes for each step in Pharmac's process would be welcome, in addition to reporting on performance against the 18-month timeframe. This included steps before and after the proposed start- and end-points for the 18-month timeframe, respectively.
- Members would welcome reporting on progress against the target before Pharmac's 2026-27 annual report.
- It would be useful for the Application Tracker to represent key milestones used as start- or end-points for the 18-month target, if they are not already visible.

Pharmac acknowledged the feedback and noted that work is continuing to develop future processes, reporting approaches and application acceptance requirements.

Pharmac advised that:

- The 18-month measure remains the agreed organisational target at this stage.
- The target reflects current resources and operating settings.
- Further improvements may be considered in future as process improvement work progresses and/or if resourcing changes.
- Step Zero and application acceptance processes remain under active development, with timeliness and transparency as key goals.

Application acceptance criteria

Members discussed application acceptance requirements and the role of clinician and consumer applications.

Feedback was provided that application requirements should remain clear and that changes should be communicated transparently to stakeholders. Pharmac noted the feedback and advised that ongoing work will consider future acceptance criteria and application processes.

Future supplier feedback

Pharmac advised that a written request for feedback will be circulated to Panel members.

The feedback process will seek views on:

- Management of the historic application backlog.
- Application acceptance criteria and development of Step Zero.
- Assessment timeframe measures.
- Internal data quality and workflow reporting improvements.

Feedback is expected by the end of August 2026 and will inform future programme planning.

Medical devices

Pharmac confirmed that work relating to medical devices continues separately in some areas because of different arrangements with Health New Zealand, although greater alignment is expected over time.

Supplier engagement

Members reiterated their willingness to share international experience and practical insights to support Pharmac's improvement work.

Pharmac welcomed ongoing engagement and noted that supplier feedback received in writing in response to its upcoming call for feedback would help inform programme planning.

Key Messages

- Work continues to implement the Timely Assessment Programme and the proposed 18-month assessment timeframe measure.
- Pharmac is developing future application acceptance and triage processes as part of Step Zero improvement work, with timeliness of these processes in mind as well as transparency of requirements for applicants.

- A written request for supplier feedback on key programme workstreams will be circulated, with responses sought by the end of August 2026.
- Pharmac is planning a wider supplier hui, currently expected to take place in October 2026.

The Chair acknowledged Danielle Campbell's contribution and engagement with the Supplier Advisory Panel and thanked her for her involvement in the programme. Members also expressed their appreciation and wished her well for the future.

Close of meeting.

Next meeting: 9 September 2026.