



Named Patient Pharmaceutical Assessment (NPPA)

Questions and Answers for pharmacists

What is NPPA?

PHARMAC's Exceptional Circumstances (EC) schemes will be replaced with Named Patient Pharmaceutical Assessment (NPPA) from 1 March 2012. As with Exceptional Circumstances, NPPA provides a mechanism for individual patients to receive funding consideration for medicines not listed in the Pharmaceutical Schedule (either at all, or for their individual clinical circumstances).

- **The change to NPPA will not affect the way pharmacists work.**
- **Pharmacists will continue to use the EXCP prefix to claim on prescriptions for treatments approved under NPPA.**
- **Patients receiving medicine under the existing EC schemes will continue to do so.**

What are the benefits of NPPA?

- Removal of the criteria restricting funding to patients in a patient population of 10 or fewer
- A new pathway for considering applications in urgent clinical circumstances
- A streamlined application process, including the ability to apply online
- Improved national consistency in decision making
- Ability for PHARMAC fund some medicines through NPPA while they are under consideration for Schedule listing
- A closer alignment of NPPA and full Pharmaceutical Schedule assessments, benefiting patient populations over time
- PHARMAC publishing the outcome of funding applications, resulting in greater clarity and enhanced transparency for clinicians of what might be funded.

What are the differences that pharmacists will see with NPPA?

There will be no changes for pharmacists as a result of the implementation of NPPA. Pharmacists currently use an EXCP prefix when claiming for prescription items funded under Community Exceptional Circumstances and will continue to use this prefix to claim for prescription items funded under NPPA.

Who can make a NPPA application?

Any authorised prescriber may make a NPPA application. Only DHB clinicians may make NPPA applications under the Hospital Pharmaceutical in the Community (HPC) pathway.

How will applications be submitted to PHARMAC?

From 1 March 2012 applications for NPPA funding will be available to be submitted to PHARMAC. Initially NPPA applications will be submitted manually and then during March NPPA applications will be able to be completed and submitted online at www.pharmac.govt.nz/nppa.

Would there be a change in the information sent to pharmacies about a person who will be funded under NPPA?

No. Pharmacy will continue to receive a letter from Sector Services, Ministry of Health, which will contain the same information that is on the current Exceptional Circumstances approval letter.

Will the NPPA / EC approval number prefix change?

No. The approval number prefix will remain as EXCP followed by the approval number and the expiry date.

Would pharmacy reimbursement change? If so, how would the reimbursement for pharmacy change?

Pharmacies will continue to be reimbursed as they are currently for EC under the Pharmacy Services Agreement.

- Where the NPPA funded medicine is listed on the Pharmaceutical Schedule:

The pharmacy will be reimbursed as they usually would for that medicine with a multiplier of 1 on the dispensing fee.

- Where the NPPA funded medicine is NOT listed on the Pharmaceutical Schedule:

The pharmacy will be reimbursed at the GST exclusive invoice price to pharmacy, with a multiplier of 1.5 on the dispensing fee.

Please refer to the Pharmacy Services Agreement (Schedule H1. Payment Terms) for the full payment calculation.

Will the claiming process for pharmacies change?

Pharmacies will continue to claim for NPPA and EC prescriptions as they do now. EXCP approval numbers must be on the prescriptions and only the nominated pharmacy may dispense and claim.

Will patients currently funded under the EC scheme have to have their doctor reapply under NPPA?

No. Patients approved for Exceptional Circumstances funding prior to 1 March 2012 will continue to receive medicines funding and be considered for renewal funding (where applicable) according to the Exceptional Circumstances criteria under which funding was initially granted.

If after visiting our website at www.pharmac.govt.nz/nppa you still have questions or would like more information, contact us at:

Email: nppa@pharmac.govt.nz - Phone 0800 66 00 50 - Fax (09) 523 6870

Contacting Us

Call us on **0800 66 00 50** (between 9am and 5pm, Monday to Friday),
Write to us at: **PHARMAC, PO Box 10 254, Wellington** – we respond to all letters
Email us at enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz – we respond to all emails

Information Sheets on various PHARMAC topics are available from our website: www.pharmac.govt.nz/patients/infosheets
If you have specific areas of interest (such as consultations, committees or vacancies), visit our website and subscribe to news feeds in the area(s) of interest to you: <http://pharmac.govt.nz/feeds>

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