



General Practice Owners Association
of Aotearoa New Zealand

**The mandated voice of general practice and urgent care providers.
By general practice, for general practice.**

GenPro For You
September 2023 Update



Working unashamedly to support sustainability and viability on behalf of general practice and urgent care business owners - and ultimately the New Zealand population they serve.

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[Message from the Chief Executive](#)

It has been a busy time since the last update, with GenPro achieving a high degree of media attention to the plight of General Practice. We have been working hard on this, and thanks to our members, we were able to deliver an impactful and confronting survey result. This survey was released to great media, political and sector interest - view [GenPro Members Survey](#) results.

The survey does paint a grim picture of the outcome of years of underfunding and was sadly unsurprising.

Dr. Angus Chambers, Chair of GenPro, fronted the issues on NewsHub and Breakfast, see link to NewsHub below:

[NewsHub](#) - *Fears critical GP services could be lost as doctors' strain under pressure, workforce shortage.*

This was followed up by the release of our Manifesto which has garnered further interest from media.

[NewsHub](#) - *Primary Care practices at risk of collapse after closures, reduced services. 31 Section-14 notifications made by GP clinics across Aotearoa since June this year.*

We received a response from one political party almost immediately and look forward to hearing how the other parties plan to address the issues raised in our manifesto.

A summary report of our media activity and profile can be found here: [GenPro](#)

Media Activity

We have stated our position clearly, and will continue to push for nurse pay parity, workforce investment and investment in essential general practice services on your behalf.

I am also continuing to receive feedback on the growing need for General Practice taking stronger action in the future if the workforce and funding issues are not resolved.

If you are concerned about your ability to maintain services and are considering changes, then you should first notify your PHO under clause 14 of the PHO Services Agreement (PHOSA). Under the agreement Contracted Providers must notify the PHO if there are changes, problems, significant risks, or significant issues which affect your ability to meet your obligations or the ability of the PHO to meet their obligations under the PHOSA. Legal advice sought previously by GenPro states that you should advise the PHO promptly. You must do this ahead of any changes where possible to ensure that you comply with the Contracted Provider Agreement.

If you are a GenPro member and would like a copy of our Section 14 Notification template, please email enquiries@genpro.org.nz

In the rest of this newsletter, you will find updates on the MECA settlement, pay equity, the upcoming AGM and other activity.

I would like to make a special mention of Heather Clinton. Heather has been the membership officer since the early days of GenPro and remains an ardent supporter of General Practice. She was highly valued and will be missed. A more detailed farewell is included in this newsletter.

I hope you find the newsletter helpful, and your feedback is welcomed, as always.

I will sign off with this whakatauki as it seems relevant to today's challenges and opportunities:

Tē tōia, tē haumatia

Nothing can be achieved without a plan, workforce and a way of doing things.

Ngā mihi,

Mark

Mark Liddle
Chief Executive

General Practice Funding

Pay Equity Funding

The NZNO have indicated that they intend to lodge a pay equity claim that will include Practice Nurses. They have engaged with GenPro and other employer representatives to advise on the process and have committed to working closely with us as the process progresses.

An equity claim should be fully funded by the Government if settled. However, that is yet to be verified. Increasing practice nurse pay is a priority and GenPro will stay actively engaged in the process but will not support any actions that create further financial pressure on General Practices. While it is early in the process there will be a regular update in the newsletter on pay equity from now on.

MECA Settlement Update

We are pleased to confirm that the 2023 MECA has now been signed by all bargaining parties and should now be implemented by all employers.

A detailed briefing was sent to our MECA subscribers today, providing specific advice and support to employers. Please email membership@genpro.org.nz if you are a GenPro MECA subscriber and did not receive a copy.

The implementation of the terms must be completed by employers within six weeks of signing and backdated to July 1.

Email membership@genpro.org.nz if you would like more information about becoming a GenPro MECA subscriber.

2023 Election Manifestos

GenPro recently released its [2023 GenPro Election Manifesto](#), which contained three key asks of the next government - fair pay, more people, and better and fair funding.

This manifesto has ideas on how the next government will be able to better support essential family doctor services. Urgency is needed to act on these initiatives as general practices throughout Aotearoa New Zealand are struggling with workforce shortages and underfunding.

The manifesto focuses on what we think matters most and where the next government needs to act first.

Along with the survey results we shared last month and above; it leaves little doubt that more support is needed to ensure the ongoing sustainability of General Practice.

GenPro will continue to highlight concerns and seek greater government support.

GenPro AGM

Notification of GenPro's upcoming AGM on Tuesday, 17 October 2023 has been sent to members.

If you did not receive this notification with details on how to register, please email enquiries@genpro.org.nz and the link will be forwarded to you.



GenPro Staff Updates

Farewell to Heather Clinton

It is with regret that we farewell our gorgeous Heather, who has decided to return to the Tourism Industry, her first love, in a full-time capacity. Heather has been with GenPro from early on and has been instrumental in growing our membership base and supporting our members. We wish Heather all the very best on her new adventure, we know she will excel in whatever she does.

Welcome to Kirsten Kyle

We would also like to welcome Kirsten Kyle to the GenPro team. Kirsten has picked up the Membership Services role.

Kirsten is an enthusiastic self-starter with an innate flair for creative communication. Armed with an undergraduate degree in psychology, a postgraduate diploma in Marketing, and PRINCE2 accreditation, Kirsten offers a diverse and formidable skill set.

Her professional journey began as a Marketing Manager, where she successfully led a team of 14 before briefly stepping away to focus on family. Now, she's back in action, having spent the past few years dedicated to both a governance startup and the health sector. Kirsten's overarching goal is to seamlessly fuse her project management and product development expertise to deliver impactful outcomes in her work. Proficient in various technologies, she's committed to streamlining processes for optimal efficiency, all while fostering a welcoming and action-oriented work environment.

Kirsten can be contacted on membership@genpro.org.nz

For details of who to contact:

- meca@genpro.org.nz for all MECA enquiries
- membership@genpro.org.nz for all membership enquiries and practice changes/updates
- enquiries@genpro.org.nz for all other enquires and feedback.



GenPro at PMAANZ Conference



We recently attended the PMAANZ Conference in Christchurch (14-16 September 2023).

It was a fantastic opportunity to support our Practice Managers and catch up with familiar and new faces. Thank you to our members for all the wonderful feedback and continued support!



Why would you join GenPro?

- To add to GenPro's collective national voice and growing mandate and therefore its ability to make a difference
- To have a voice in national negotiations and discussions
- To have access to GenPro's exclusive range of member-only resources and briefings

Further information on the benefits of joining GenPro can be found [on our website](#) or by contacting membership@genpro.org.nz.

Download the GenPro membership application

Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand

National Primary Care - Update on Measles

A second unrelated measles case has been identified in Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland in the last 7 days after recent travel abroad. No exposure events have been identified outside of Tāmaki Makaurau and all close contacts are being followed up. However, please maintain clinical vigilance for potential measles. Isolate on suspicion and notify your local public health service immediately. HealthPathways has up-to-date information on this topic – please visit to check your local protocol.

For more detailed information and resources, see [Update on Measles](#).

Immunisation Updates - 28 September 2023

COVID-19 boosters available for eligible population

Booster doses can continue to be administered to those who are eligible and wish to have one, regardless of how many doses they have had previously. The eligibility criteria have not changed.

If you are going to recall patients, it is recommended that the focus is on those who are most likely to benefit from an additional dose in late 2023.

[IMAC has developed a factsheet to provide guidance for booster doses in late 2023.](#)

For more details on eligibility, refer to the [Immunisation Handbook](#) or call 0800 IMUNISE for clinical advice on the consumer's risk and benefits of an additional COVID-19 vaccine booster dose.

World Meningitis Day

October 5 is World Meningitis Day, a day to raise awareness about the impact of meningitis, a disease that can tragically take a life in less than 24 hours or cause lifelong disability.

On 1 March 2023 the Meningococcal B vaccine was added to the National Immunisation Schedule and is available for free for all pēpi aged under 12 months, and for anyone aged 13-25 entering their first year of a close-living situation – e.g., a boarding school, or university hostel.

Tamariki aged over 12 months, but under five years, and people aged 13-25 who are also in close living situations including boarding schools, youth justice facilities, university halls of residence and military barracks can also catch up for free for a limited time.

There is meningococcal vaccine collateral available in Dropbox and Bluestar and we strongly encourage health providers to download and share these resources to help promote World Meningitis Day and raise awareness of vaccination.

New content and social media tiles specifically for World Meningitis Day will be added early next week. Please be sure to check back if you'd like to use these resources on your social media channels.

Details on how to access Dropbox and Bluestar can be found at the end of this Pānui.

MenACWY vaccine offered by pharmacies

Effective immediately, there will no longer be a requirement for pharmacies to provide evidence of identified demand when they approach their District to request access to adding the MenACWY (MenQuadfi) vaccine to the portfolio of vaccines offered in their pharmacy.

This change aligns access to MenQuadfi with the other funded vaccines currently available for community pharmacies to order via the CIR Inventory Portal. Pharmacies should continue to only order sufficient stock to meet demand to support vaccinations for the close living eligible cohort as per Pharmac eligibility criteria.

We are continuing to support pharmacies to widen the number of vaccines they can offer their community to ensure consumers are able to access vaccines they are eligible for. By increasing community access to meningococcal vaccines, we envisage pharmacies being able to provide these vaccines to young people who are moving into close living facilities (boarding schools or halls of residence).

If you have any questions, comments or would like support to onboard for any of the available vaccines please reach out to us at
immunisation@health.govt.nz

Shingrix first dose

IMAC has had a couple of reports of people developing shingles, or herpes zoster, following a first dose of Shingrix.

Shingrix is not a live vaccine so cannot cause shingles. A real-world effectiveness study found that there were around 10 shingles cases for every 1,000 unvaccinated people. This dropped to fewer than five cases per 1000 among those who received one dose of Shingrix and dropped to three cases per 1000 after two doses.

This means some people will develop shingles prior to having their second dose, although their risk is lower than if they had not received the first dose. The data does not suggest an increased risk after dose 1, which is what people may think if they get shingles shortly after the vaccination.

There is evidence that the incidence of herpes zoster is increasing in New Zealand and also that COVID-19 infection increases the risk.

The recommended timing of any dose following an episode of herpes zoster is generally 12 months, as the risk of recurrent shingles is low for about a year after an episode. Those with ophthalmic shingles should wait until 12 months of disease quiescence (has completely settled). Those with immunocompromise could have their second dose sooner than 12 months as they have an increased risk of recurrence.

If you have any questions, please contact 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863) or email 0800immune@auckland.ac.nz

A new Shingrix video resource is available on the IMAC website.

The video gives a detailed guide on how to prepare the Shingrix vaccine, presented by IMAC pharmacy vaccinator Sally Schnauer. You can view the video [here](#)

Overview of collateral available in Dropbox and Bluestar

- The summary document is available here: [Dropbox/Bluestar collateral summary](#).
- Please feel free to share this link and the collateral widely with your other healthcare colleagues: [Dropbox – National Immunisation Programme – vaccine resources](#).
- Immunisation resources are also available from [HealthEd](#).
- Printed copies of some resources can be ordered for free via the [Bluestar portal](#).

If you need key messages, or any other comms or engagement support, please email sandy.thambiah@health.govt.nz

Revised Model of Care for COVID-19 - from 1 October 2023

Collateral

In the link below you will find a range of public collateral to use in your location, whether it is a practice, Hauora provider location or pharmacy.

[LINK TO PUBLIC COLLATERAL](#)

There is also an option to order printed versions of this collateral (A3 and A4 posters, and flyer) from Bluestar from Monday 25 September, following the process below:

- Go to https://portal.bluestar.co.nz/login/moh_vaccine
- If you already have an account, login.
- If you do not have an account, click on the “Need to Register?” link and follow the prompts. You will receive an authorisation email to activate your account. Once you have activated your account, you can login, using your email as your username.
- Click on the “Catalogue” tab at the top left of the page.
- The collateral is housed under the “GoWell Campaign” category, click on the link on the left-hand side of the page.
- Choose the collateral you want printed, enter the quantity and click “Add”.
- Once you’ve entered your order, either click on the cart to review and amend, or click on “Place Order” (top right of the page).
- Follow the prompts and complete your order.

Contact details are posted on the portal home page if you have questions.

Narrative

Below is a narrative (*in italics*) about the transition of COVID-19 care for you to use on your website, if one is required.

Covid Care to focus on eligibility for antiviral medicines

Eligibility for antiviral medicine to treat COVID-19 will become the key focus of primary, Hauora provider and community pharmacy care from 1st October.

This will ensure the people who are most at risk of serious outcomes from the virus receive the support they need.

The continued and greater focus on antiviral therapies reflects the transition to managing COVID-19 in the same way as other acute respiratory conditions.

People who are not at high risk of serious illness from COVID-19 can still access related healthcare at their doctor, hauora provider or pharmacy, but they will be asked to pay just like they do for other health services.

News Item

We also intend to post a news item next week on the Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora websites, in their news section. This can also be used for your own website news section if you choose to do so.

Testing

To add to previous information provided, please take note of the following additional points:

- The **Healthlink and ESR forms** will **not** be changing.
- **As from the 1 October**, if you use information from either the Healthlink or ESR forms to assist with the generation of invoices to claim for RAT or PCR testing/consultation funding, please ensure:
 - ***this is only extracted from the tick box “please select if patient is eligible for antivirals”***

Pulse Oximeters

The funded provision of pulse oximetry to Primary Care from 1 October 2023 will end in line with planned funding changes for COVID-19.

There are a number of pulse oximeters for order should you like to use them in your practice or for specific patients. These can be ordered through your standard ordering channels until stock is exhausted.

Thank you for reading this information and please respond Jonathan.Tudor@health.govt.nz if you have any questions.

The Final Word...



“Thank you for everything that you’ve accomplished so far, and good luck to everything you will in the future.”

By General Practice, for General Practice

- Membership enquiries/updates membership@genpro.org.nz
- MECA enquiries meca@genpro.org.nz
- Accounts enquiries accounts@genpro.org.nz
- All other enquiries enquiries@genpro.org.nz

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