



dapaanz

fostering excellence in addiction practice

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Feedback on Pharmac's proposal on various anti-infective medicines

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on your proposal on various anti-infective medicines.

The Addiction Practitioner' Association Aotearoa New Zealand (dapaanz) is the professional member association representing the interests of people working in addiction treatment. We would like to specifically provide feedback on:

- *Ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (Harvoni) funding criteria for treatment of hepatitis C would be widened to include patients with a lower end-stage liver disease (MELD) score of 12 or greater*

Many of the addiction workforce work directly with people living with hepatitis C (HCV). We believe that while positive, the shift to widen the funding criteria to a MELD score of 12 or greater, is insufficient to reduce the significant harms associated with chronic HCV. We strongly support expanding the availability of Ledipasvir with sofosbuvir (Harvoni or its generic equivalent) to anybody with non-genotype 1, especially if LFTs are elevated.

HCV impacts on people's lives for many years prior to end stage liver disease. Access to Ledipasvir with sofosbuvir for all cases of non-genotype 1 HCV will increase people's quality of life, as well as reduce the overall health and social care costs associated with the sequelae of HCV.

Providing Ledipasvir with sofosbuvir in New Zealand to all cases of non-genotype 1 HCV will also reduce the need for people to join 'buyers' clubs' or seek to find cheaper overseas alternatives which may be non-licenced, unregulated and potentially harmful.

Please feel free to contact me if there are any questions.

Yours Sincerely,

Susan Paton
Executive Director