

17 April 2018

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**Proposal to remove the funding restrictions for candesartan**

Dear Alexander

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) wishes to provide feedback on the above proposal. We note that the proposal would result in candesartan tablets being available fully funded without restriction—clinicians would no longer be required to apply for a Special Authority approval for each patient starting on candesartan. We understand that this proposal is in line with advice by the Cardiovascular Subcommittee of PTAC.

We believe that it would be useful to have a fully funded alternative angiotensin II antagonist to losartan. We view candesartan as an excellent option for patients with hypertension or heart failure, and believe that its expanded availability will benefit patients. Removing the requirement for Special Authority would reduce the administrative workload of prescribing candesartan. Accordingly, we are supportive of this proposal.

We hope our feedback is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kate Baddock  
NZMA Chair