

11 November 2011

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Dear Rosemary

### **High Use Health Card checklist**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the draft High Use Health Card (HUHC) checklist. The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) advises, however, that the extremely tight timeframes given for this have been less than ideal and as a result our response is necessarily brief.

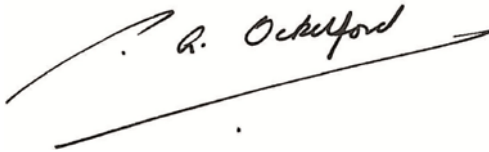
Overall the NZMA is comfortable with the draft checklist but notes the following.

- If a doctor sees a patient more than 12 times in the preceding 12 months for medical services the patient is defined as high needs, so the requirement that the patient have a specific medical condition does not apply.
- Children who have recurrent upper respiratory tract infections (URTIs), and therefore not a particular medical condition, often go on to develop asthma. However at such a young age it is impossible to diagnose accurately. Accordingly we believe recurrent acute illness such as URTIs, or recurrent otitis media should be allowed despite the fact that these are both recurrent acute illnesses. It is inappropriate to exclude acute illnesses if they relate to each other.
- The issue that the patient is going to require increased services in the next 12 months should not be included, as the patient has already cost the practice way over their capitation amount if they have been seen 12 times in the previous 12 months irrespective of whether that continues or not.

- Whether the service is provided for free for children under six years of age depends on adequate capitation.

Finally the NZMA asks that outdated forms continue to be accepted, provided the information contained in them is correct.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Dr Paul Ockelford". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a long, horizontal stroke.

Dr Paul Ockelford  
NZMA Chair