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Draft Medicines Care Guide for Community Residential and Facility-based Respite Services – Disability, Mental Health and Addiction

The NZMA is New Zealand’s largest medical organisation and has a pan professional membership. Our members come from all disciplines within the medical profession and include specialists, general practitioners, doctors-in-training and medical students.

The NZMA aims to provide leadership of the medical profession, and promote:

- professional unity and values, and
- the health of New Zealanders.

The key roles of the NZMA are to:

- provide advocacy on behalf of doctors and their patients;
- provide support and services to members and their practices;
- publish and maintain the Code of Ethics for the profession; and
- publish the New Zealand Medical Journal.

The NZMA welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft Medicines Care Guide for Community Residential and Facility-Based Respite Services – Disability, Mental Health and Addiction. We note that this draft was developed as a collaborative initiative involving people who use services, providers, the Pharmacy Guild and Ministry of Health, and is intended to provide a quick medicine management reference tool for managers.

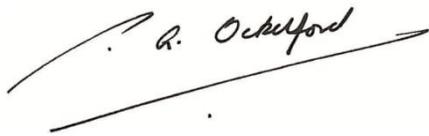
The NZMA acknowledges the need for a comprehensive medicines management system to ensure that people who live in community residential homes and facility-based respite services receive their medications in a safe and timely manner. We note that the draft for review replaces earlier guidance set out in 1997, and is consistent with the current New Zealand medicines strategy, Actioning Medicines New Zealand (2010).

The NZMA supports the guidance set out in this draft. We believe that it addresses the relevant issues at an appropriate level in order to support comprehensive medications management across a range of residential homes and facility-based respite services for people with disability, mental health and addiction issues.

The NZMA has only one minor suggested addition to the draft. We recommend that 'anti-nausea' be added to a list of common PRN medicines in Section 4.3 of the draft. While we recognise that this list is not intended to be exhaustive, anti-nausea medications are among the most common medication types to be used on a PRN basis in these settings.

We trust that our comments are helpful and we look forward to the availability of the final version of the guide.

Yours sincerely

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

Dr Paul Ockelford
NZMA Chair