

26 August 2019

Medicines Classification Committee Secretary
By email: committees@moh.govt.nz

Agenda for the 63rd meeting of the Medicines Classification Committee

Dear Sir/Madam

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) wishes to provide comment to the Medicines Classification Committee (MCC) regarding item 6.1 (Influenza Vaccine) on the agenda for the 63rd meeting scheduled for 10 October 2019.

Influenza vaccine is currently a prescription medicine except when administered to a person 13 years of age or over by a registered pharmacist who has completed an approved vaccinator training course. We note the proposed reclassification is to extend administration of influenza vaccine to a registered **intern** pharmacist who has completed an approved vaccinator training course.

We do not believe the submission for reclassification provides a satisfactory rationale for this change and we seek further information on the problem which this proposed reclassification is intended to solve. The claim that the reclassification will help the Ministry of Health deliver increased immunisation rates does not stand up to scrutiny. Under the proposal, intern pharmacists are required to work under the direct supervision of pharmacist vaccinators. The numbers of people who are vaccinated under the reclassification will, therefore, be the same— if the intern doesn't vaccinate, then the supervising pharmacist would. It would be of concern if the main rationale for this reclassification relates to business rather than population health objectives.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kate Baddock
NZMA Chair