

22 August 2017

PHARMAC  
PO Box 10254  
Wellington 6143

By email: [diabetesfeedback@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:diabetesfeedback@pharmac.govt.nz)

### **Diabetes management products**

Dear Sir/Madam

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) wishes to provide feedback on the above consultation. We note that PHARMAC is proposing a new sole supply arrangement for an expanded range of CareSens self-monitoring diagnostic test meters and associated test strips, in both the community and hospital settings. We understand that:

- most people who use a blood glucose testing meter (approximately 100,000 people) would not need to change their diabetes management products.
- approximately 3,000 people would need to change from their current brand of meter to keep using a funded meter and test strips, and approximately 15,000 people would need to upgrade their current CareSens meter; there would be a six-month transition period for these people to change brands or upgrade to a newer CareSens meter.
- PHARMAC would create a process to enable people to keep funded access to their existing meter if their clinical circumstances mean they require it.
- there would be savings in excess of \$10 million over 5 years for the Combined Pharmaceutical Budget which could be used to invest and improve access to other funded medical devices and medicines.

We recognise the value of the majority of people who use a blood glucose testing meter not needing to change, and are comfortable with the six-month transition period. We believe that the substantial savings for the Combined Pharmaceutical Budget mean this is a change that is worth doing. Accordingly, we support the above proposal.

We hope that our feedback has been helpful.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kate Baddock  
NZMA Chair