

5 June 2016

Katie Appleby  
Therapeutic Group Manager  
PHARMAC  
PO Box 10254  
Wellington. 6143

Dear Katie

## **Proposal to list hepatitis C treatments**

At the full meeting of the PHO Alliance on 3 June 2016, members were concerned to hear of the proposals for central distribution of new hepatitis C treatments. Whilst we acknowledge that we have missed the formal deadline for your consultation, members were sufficiently concerned at these proposals and asked that we formally write to you nonetheless.

The PHO Alliance represents a multi-professional and multi-agency membership across primary care which includes PHOs from Cape Reinga to Bluff encompassing over 1 million enrolled service users.

The members of our clinical leadership and integration sub-committee specifically noted that the distribution proposals for these high cost treatments appear to bypass local Pharmacy and General Practice providers. It was noted that this appears contrary to current Government policy and the refreshed New Zealand Health Strategy which puts individual patients central to the delivery of care closer to home provided through an integrated multi-professional health care team embedded within the local community.

Members felt this raised significant questions with regards continuity of care, clinical governance and, for a highly vulnerable population group, significant questions relating to the absence of direct patient education, adherence advice and local support for medication-use problems.

We would therefore kindly ask that the distribution proposals be reconsidered and we would be happy to contribute our members' expertise and input to further work in this regard.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can provide any further information in the meantime and thank you for otherwise considering this submission.

Yours sincerely

*Philip Grant* (via e-mail)

**Philip Grant**  
**Chief Executive**