

## CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

### Proposed supplementary wording to clause 6.9 of the Code of Ethics 2011

Released 20 August 2015  
Submissions due 1 October 2015 -  
Extended to 5.00pm 9 October 2015

#### 1. Who we are

The Pharmacy Council of New Zealand (the Council) is established under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 (HPCAA) and has a duty to protect the public and promote good pharmacist practice. The Council is responsible for the registration of pharmacists, the setting of standards for pharmacists' education, scopes of practice and conduct. The Council's vision is Safe Effective Pharmacy Practice.

#### 2. Purpose

The objective of this consultation is to seek stakeholder views on the proposed supplementary wording to clause 6.9 in the Pharmacy Council's Code of Ethics 2011. This clause relates to pharmacists:

*“purchasing, supplying or promoting any medicine, complementary therapy, herbal remedy or other healthcare product where there is no reason to doubt its quality or safety and when there is credible evidence of efficacy.”*

#### 3. Background

Over a number of years there has been much debate and discussion regarding the promotion, supply and sale of complementary and/or alternative medicines by pharmacists. This debate has primarily focussed on the efficacy of these therapies. Over the past 12-months the level of sector and public interest has notably increased. Council has reviewed clause 6.9 of the Code of Ethics 2011 which relates to this topic and are now seeks stakeholder feedback on proposed changes.

Note – Council intend to undertake a full review of the Code of Ethics (2011) in 2016.

#### 4. Proposal

Council proposes to change clause 6.9 of the Code of Ethics 2011 from the current wording (below) and replace it with the supplementary wording (below).

## Pharmacy Council of NZ Code of Ethics 2011 clause 6.9

### Current wording – clause 6.9

*“Only purchase, supply or promote any medicine, complementary therapy, herbal remedy or other healthcare product where there is no reason to doubt its quality or safety and when there is credible evidence of efficacy.”*

### Proposed supplementary wording – two distinct parts – clause 6.9

6.9a *“Only supply or promote any medicine or herbal remedy where there is no reason to doubt its quality or safety and when there is credible evidence of efficacy.”*

6.9b *“Only supply any complementary therapy or other healthcare product where there is no reason to doubt its quality or safety and when sufficient information about the product can be provided in order for the purchaser to make an informed choice with regard to the risks and benefits of all the available treatment options.”*

It is not Council’s intention to endorse or prohibit the supply of any particular complementary and/or alternative medicine or product. It is the individual pharmacist’s responsibility to ensure they meet their professional obligations in the supply of all products. Pharmacists should be able to advise patients about the general use, current state of evidence, associated effectiveness and any safety issues relating to complementary and/or alternative medicines. This knowledge should provide the basis on which a pharmacist makes a conscious decision on whether or not to supply or promote these types of medicines.

In instances where there is credible evidence to suggest a specific complementary and/or alternative medicine/product lacks efficacy, pharmacists should not promote or recommend its use.

Pharmacists must also respect patients’ rights to freedom of choice or autonomy in relation to their treatment options.

Submissions on the supplementary wording to clause 6.9 of the Code of Ethics (2011) are sought before a final decision is made by Council.

## 5. How to submit a response

We would like your response to indicate whether you support Council's wording of the proposed supplementary clause 6.9 of the Code of Ethics 2011. If you would like to propose an alternative, please include both your alternative wording and the rationale in your submission.

Responses can be sent:

### **by mail**

Pharmacy Council of New Zealand  
PO Box 25137  
Wellington 6011

### **by fax**

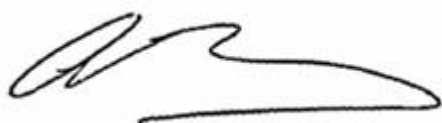
Fax: 04 495 0331

### **by email**

[consultations@pharmacycouncil.org.nz](mailto:consultations@pharmacycouncil.org.nz)

Please include details in your response indicating which organisation or health sector you represent.

**This consultation closes at 5pm, 1 October 2015.**



Andrew Bary  
Chair