

Consultation on the inclusion of one behaviour in the new Pharmacist Prescriber Competence Standards

31 March – 16 April 2023

Introduction

Pharmacy Council (the Council) recently consulted on [Competence standards for Pharmacist Prescribers and the Guidance document for Pharmacist Prescribers](#) from 1 September to 13 October 2022.

We then subsequently identified that a behaviour (the behaviour) present in the current standards had been omitted from the draft version put forward for consultation.

This consultation proposes to **reinstate the behaviour below** into competence standard 4: *Prescribe* of the Pharmacist Prescriber Competence Standards that will come into effect on 1 April 2024. The behaviour is described as follows:

4.2 Only prescribes medicines with adequate, up-to-date knowledge of their actions, indications, efficacy, dose, established and emerging contraindications, interactions, cautions, and adverse effects.

Background

This section chronologically outlines the history of the competence standards development over the years and explains the inadvertent exclusion of a critical behaviour we are consulting on to be reinstated.

2013

The behaviour “*PP 4.2.3: Only prescribes medicines with adequate, up-to-date knowledge of its actions, indications, contraindications, interactions, cautions, dose and side-effects*” is part of the current Pharmacist Prescriber Competence Standards which came into effect in 2013.

These standards are also the inaugural competence standards for the Pharmacist Prescriber scope of practice.

2020

Council commenced work to refresh the standards to:

- reflect contemporary expectations for pharmacist prescriber practice, and
- harmonise with the prescribing competence frameworks in place in the United Kingdom and Australia

while still reflecting the unique requirements for practice within Aotearoa New Zealand.

In November 2020, we released the refreshed standards for consultation, and the behaviour was included as: “4.1 Only prescribes medicines with adequate, up-to-date knowledge of their actions, indications, efficacy, dose, established and emerging contraindications, interactions, cautions, and side-effects.”

In the consultation document we noted that we would address cultural safety for all of Council’s scopes of practice at a later date.

We also indicated that further information would be included with the final Competence Standards (including a focus on cultural competence, Te reo Māori, Hauora Māori and proactively addressing health inequities).

2021

Following consideration of the feedback received from the consultation, Council members approved a revised version of the standards, however this version was not formally released by Council.

The revised version included a minor amendment to the behaviour: *side-effects* to *adverse effects*.

2022

Following work to give greater effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and to address health inequities, a revised version of the standards was released for consultation again in September 2022.

We have since identified that the behaviour was not included in the new version of the standards released for consultation.

Council once again considered feedback received and implemented further amendments to the standards, which led to establishing their final version.

2023

The Council members approved the final version of the Pharmacist Prescriber Competence Standards with Te Tiriti Advisory Group endorsement.

Importance of the behaviour 4.2

The behaviour, included and approved in Council’s Competence Standards in 2021 version, **ensures that pharmacist prescribers use comprehensive information and the best available evidence to inform their decisions before prescribing medicines.**

Given the significant value of this behaviour for the Competence Standards, we have confirmed that:

- the omission was unintentional,
- the behaviour is necessary, and
- the behaviour should have been included in the consultation document in 2022.

Therefore, Council has agreed to open another consultation that focuses only on the inclusion of this single behaviour.

Purpose of this consultation

The focus of this consultation process is to **only seek feedback on the inclusion of the 4.2 behaviour to the new standards in the form presented below:**

4.2 Only prescribes medicines with adequate, up-to-date knowledge of their actions, indications, efficacy, dose, established and emerging contraindications, interactions, cautions, and adverse effects.

To provide the broader context and completeness for the submissions, we will share a full Council-approved version of the Pharmacist Prescriber Competence Standards with the proposed inclusion of the 4.2 behaviour in it.

Read the full document [here](#).

Please click [here](#) to begin your online submission.

This consultation closes at 5pm Sunday, 16 April 2023.

We would appreciate your submission before the closing date, thank you.