

2027/28 FEES AND LEVIES CONSULTATION

The Pharmacy Council (the Council) is opening consultation on the 2027/2028 Annual Practising Certificate (APC) fees, disciplinary levy and other fees to seek your views on the proposed changes.

Background

There are two parts to the total annual practising fee paid by practitioners: the APC fee, and the disciplinary levy.

Council uses the revenue or funds from these fees to deliver the legal functions as described in the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003 and any associated development to ensure the way we deliver the legal functions are fit for purpose.

The last fee change took effect on 1 April 2025. When setting the fees for the next financial year, Council must estimate future costs and activities.

Proposed changes

This year, we are proposing to increase both the disciplinary levy and the APC fee.

We are also proposing changes to some specific fees, a cost of living¹ uplift to all other miscellaneous fees, and changing how we charge for the cost of banking system payments.

This would mean the **total fees payable** (incl. GST) for the 2027/28 APC renewal period would be:

- \$1,080 for Pharmacists (currently \$1,020)
- \$1,170 for Pharmacist Prescribers (currently \$1,120)
- \$751 for Interns (currently \$669)
- \$110 for the non-practising fee (currently \$105)

You can find more detail about all these changes, and the method used to determine the total fee required to meet the required expenditure, [in the full consultation document](#).

Preparing for future costs

For the APC fee for the 2027/2028 financial year, we are proposing:

- a cost of living increase of 3.41% to the base 2026/2027 APC fee for all scopes of practice

For the disciplinary levy for the 2027/28 financial year, we are proposing:

- an increase of \$58 for forecasted cost increases in 2027/28 for all scopes of practice

¹ The cumulative effect of inflation from March 2025 to June 2026 is approximately 4.62% to maintain the same real value as of the June 2026 quarter.

Addressing reserve balances

Council currently manages two reserves: a General reserve and a Disciplinary reserve. In setting these fees and levies the Council must forecast its expenditure up to eighteen months in advance.

Some years, aspects of the Council's workplan needs to be deferred or reprioritised due to environmental factors. Some work may also be completed for less (or more) than was originally planned and budgeted.

In the case of disciplinary matters, it is difficult to forecast the volume and complexity of complaints and notifications we may receive.

For this reason, this year Council is proposing to:

- return the excess of General reserve held of \$116 for pharmacists and \$131 for pharmacist prescribers renewing their APC in 2027, and,
- levy a further \$78 to return the Disciplinary reserve to its policy minimum.

Balancing the books fairly

To make this process as administratively cost effective as possible, rather than issuing a separate adjustment and then charging a higher total APC, we are including these changes within the usual fee-setting method for 2027/28. This is possible because the receiver and payer are largely one in the same.

We want to make sure that what you pay is close to the actual costs Council incurs.

We also want to be transparent about how we use the fees and levies we receive from practitioners, how we determined the need for this change, and why we are doing it in one year rather than as a gradual increase.

In future, it would be reasonable for you to expect that at a minimum Council will need to change fees and levies to meet cost of living increases each year.

Proposed changes to other fees

We are also proposing changes to other fees to more accurately reflect the time and costs involved processing these functions. These proposed changes include:

- The application fee for initial consideration of registration for non-Comparable Pathway applicants will increase from \$950 to \$1,015
- The application fee for registration in the Pharmacist Prescriber scope of practice will increase from \$105 to \$470 for New Zealand trained applicants*
- The application fee for registration in the Pharmacist Prescriber scope of practice will decrease from \$2,395 to \$470 for overseas trained applicants*
- The reinstatement fee for the Intern scope of practice will increase from \$829 to \$997
- An increase of around 3.41% for cost of living (rounded up/down to the nearest dollar) for all other miscellaneous fees

** Note: these changes are interim changes only to the application fee for registration while work is being completed on the prescriber scope of practice*

Proposed changes to payment surcharges

Finally, we are proposing a change to the method for applying the recovery of banking system payment surcharges.

Currently, just over half of practitioners pay their APC fees via credit card and are charged an additional 2% fee, and the remainder pay via the Account-to-Account (A2A) bank transfer method with variable transaction rates applied that the Council absorbs due to the complexity of the provider's volume billing method.

To make this more equitable for all practitioners, we are proposing to apply a flat 1.3% banking system payment surcharge across all fee types. GST will not be applied to this.

Timing and things to note

- The proposed fees and levy for Pharmacists and Pharmacist Prescribers would apply from 1 April 2027.
- The proposed fees and levy for Interns would apply from 15 December 2027.
- Other miscellaneous fees would apply from 1 April 2027.
- All figures in the consultation document include GST, unless otherwise stated.
- The Council will give effect to the fees and levies by placing a notice in the [New Zealand Gazette](#).

Feedback and submissions

Council invites feedback on this consultation document from its stakeholders including practitioners, relevant professional associations and societies, the Ministry of Health, and any other sector organisations with an interest. The consultation document is available on Council's website for feedback from any interested public parties.

Council will consider all submissions and feedback received prior to making the final decision on the proposals outlined in this document.

Submissions received will be published on Council's website and will remain available for public view (personal details will be removed from submissions). Council reserves the right not to publish any submissions considered to be derogatory or inflammatory.

As this is a public consultation, information provided 'in confidence' will only be accepted under special circumstances. Please contact us before submitting any such material.

You can email your feedback to consultations@pharmacycouncil.org.nz or respond via our [online survey](#). **Submissions close at 5pm, Monday 23 November 2026.**