
The ePodNewsletter

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Tēnā koutou katoa. Greetings and welcome to the Board's latest Newsletter.

Prescribing Update

There has been a substantial amount of work conducted behind the scenes to implement designated prescribing for podiatrists, in collaboration with the Ministry of Health | Manatū Hauora, Auckland University of Technology (AUT), Podiatry NZ, Pharmac, Medsafe, Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand, Clinical Advisory Pharmacist Association (CAPA), Health Quality and Safety Commission (HQSC), and other key stakeholders. The Board Chair, Deputy Chair and Chief Executive/Registrar also met with the Podiatry Board of Australia in May to discuss lessons learnt from their own prescribing implementation journey, in support of avoiding all potential pitfalls.

Secondary Legislation

Following an application from the Podiatrists Board for designated prescribing for podiatrists, the Ministry of Health gave notice on 14 April 2025 of the secondary legislation for [Medicines \(Designated Prescriber – Podiatrists\) Regulations 2025](#), under [section 105 of the Medicines Act 1981](#).

On 15 May 2025 following a Ministry of Health led consultation process, the Director-General of Health approved the [Specified Prescription Medicines for the purposes of the](#)

[Medicines \(Designated Podiatrist Prescriber\) Regulations 2025](#), pursuant to section 105(5A) of the Medicines Act 1981.

Purpose of Designated Prescribing for Podiatrists

The current model of care for podiatric practice creates barriers and inefficiencies in the treatment pathway for those needing prescription medicines, significantly affecting individuals seeking podiatric care. Allowing appropriately trained podiatrists to prescribe a range of defined and clinically relevant medicines will enable people to receive the necessary treatment directly from their podiatrist. This change would eliminate delays, reduce financial burdens, and simplify the process by removing the need for additional GP appointments.

Enabling designated podiatrist prescribing also provides an opportunity to align podiatric practice in Aotearoa New Zealand with that in other similar jurisdictions such as Australia, the United Kingdom, Canada, and the United States, where podiatrists can prescribe medicines.

For clarity, enabling podiatrist prescribing authority does not mean that podiatrist prescribers will have access to all medicine prescribing. The Ministry of Health, on behalf of the Director-General of Health (working with the Board), is responsible for establishing a Specified Prescribing Medicines List (SPML) that podiatrist prescribers can prescribe from. In developing the SPML, the Ministry consulted with those people or organisations that may be affected by the addition of specified prescription medicines to the podiatrist SPML before making a legal change by Gazette Notice (Secondary legislation).

The Specified Prescribing Medicines List (SPML) in Aotearoa New Zealand refers to a list of medicines that registered, appropriately trained podiatrists will be able to prescribe under specific conditions, as outlined by the Podiatrists Board. This list is a subset of the wider [Pharmaceutical Schedule](#), which details all medicines available in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Next Steps

The Podiatrists Board will be issuing a consultation document in September 2025 for the podiatrist prescriber additional scope of practice aimed at seeking feedback from all stakeholders on the proposals in that consultation document. The consultation document will include the following information:

Scope of practice description

Education and training requirements

Registration requirements (including supervision)

Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Recertification requirements

Fees information

Prescribing Standards

This is the next exciting step in the process for implementing designated prescribing rights for podiatrists and we would encourage as many of you as possible to send in submissions when you receive the consultation document, in support of ensuring comprehensive feedback is provided by the podiatry profession.

Phenol - SafeTPen Product

On 7 August, Medsafe published provisional consent for the distribution of a new medicine, namely the SafeTPen in the [New Zealand Gazette](#) by Whiteleys Medical Limited. This decision was the result of a long-coordinated effort by Podiatry NZ and Whiteleys to secure approval for this product and we have been informed that it will be available directly to all registered podiatrists in October 2025.

The Podiatrists Board had previously secured an [exemption for registered podiatrists to use phenol for matrixectomy](#), which was published in the New Zealand Gazette on 7 Oct 24. As this exemption is already in place, it facilitates the immediate use of the SafeTPen by registered podiatrists.

Continues Professional Development (CPD) Recertification Programme - Audit

We are fast approaching the end of the current 2-year CPD cycle which covers the period 1 January 2024 to 31 December 2025. This is a timely reminder to ensure you have completed all CPD, as the CPD audit of up to 20% of APC holders is scheduled for January 2026. As an advisory, the Boards practitioner database (Ners) automatically selects podiatrists for the audit who have not uploaded any CPD to their practitioner portals. So, you of course significantly reduce the chances of being selected for the audit if you have uploaded the required CPD to your practitioner portal.

The Board's CPD Recertification Policy and all supporting documents are available on our website [here](#).