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15 November 2025

Pharmac  
By email to: [applicationfeedback@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:applicationfeedback@pharmac.govt.nz)

Dear Pharmac

### **Proposal to remove medicines from the Options for Investment (OFI) list**

This submission is in response to Pharmac's proposal to remove medicines from the Options for Investment (OFI) list. On 20 October 2025 you advised:

*Pharmac is proposing changes to bring greater transparency and clarity to how medicine funding applications are managed on the Options for Investment (OFI) list.*

*The approach would allow Pharmac to decline applications that have remained in the lowest-ranked group for more than two years - helping people better understand which medicines are unlikely to be funded and why.*

*Under the proposal:*

- *Applications in the lowest-ranked group for more than two years would be declined.*
- *This would apply to the bottom 20% of applications (if there are more than 100), or the bottom 10% (if fewer than 100).*

Myeloma New Zealand does not support this proposal in its current form. While the principle of providing greater transparency and clarity to management of medicines funding applications is laudable, we remain to be convinced this proposal will actually contribute positively to achieving that. Simply shortening a list does not in itself increase transparency - or prompt better performance.

Patients' concerns with transparency and clarity about the process are fundamentally about seeking action and getting more medicines funded. Pharmac has a key role to play in encouraging increased funding to enable this. The goal should be having fewer medicines on the list because more are being funded – not because they have simply been removed from the process.

If the aim is genuinely to provide increased transparency and clarity, Pharmac could just disclose the ranking of all medicines on the list, individually or in groups, so patients and anyone else interested would know.

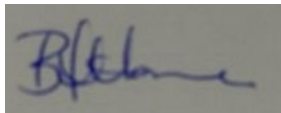
We are concerned that the proposed ease of removing a medicine from the list will not be balanced with an easy path back on to the list i.e. once a medicine is off the list, it will be a

long (and opaque) process to get it back on the OFI. This is an issue for patients and also, we believe, a significant disincentive for pharmaceutical companies if they think a medicine will not be funded, when in reality a low ranked medicine could be bundled with other medicines in such a way that it could reasonably be funded.

We see no advantages in the proposal, only disadvantages, and we ask that you do not proceed with it.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this feedback. Myeloma patients, and Myeloma New Zealand, look forward to a time when the medicines and treatments available here mean myeloma can be treated like a chronic condition as it is already in other countries. Pharmac plays a critical role in achieving that goal and the goal of one day having a curative treatment.

Yours sincerely



Barbara Horne  
**Chair**



Nichola Oakenfull  
**Trustee**