



Guidance to Pharmacies in the Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand Waikato District

Emergency Supply of Medicines – 15 February 2023 (updated 28 February 2023)

In response to the National State of Emergency declared following the impacts of a severe weather event (“the Event”), the Ministry of Health is implementing a mechanism to enable pharmacies located in the Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand Waikato District (“the District”) to dispense emergency supplies of prescription medicines (without requiring a prescription) to all people from the Event affected area.

Note that these provisions do not apply to controlled drugs. A patient requiring resupply of a controlled drug, including Class C Controlled drugs such as benzodiazepines, will need to obtain a prescription.

The mechanism for medicines is:

- The emergency supply provisions in regulation 44(m) of the Medicines Regulations 1984 will apply, but with an extension to the maximum period of supply from 72 hours (as stated in the regulation) to 14 days.
- As required under regulation 44(m), the pharmacist will need to be satisfied that the patient requires an emergency supply. As part of satisfying this requirement, the pharmacist would need to establish that the person being supplied had been affected by the Event; the person is not reasonably able to consult with their usual prescriber or obtain medicines from their usual pharmacy and that the name and dose of the medicine requested is accurate and appropriate to their medical history. If unsure, the pharmacist should try to contact the affected person's usual prescriber or dispensing pharmacy to limit the risk of dispensing an inappropriate medicine.
- The emergency supply provisions described above apply to New Zealand residents.

These amended emergency supply provisions will remain in place until Tuesday 7 March 2023 and may be reviewed and/or amended by the Ministry of Health as required.

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