New Zealand pharmacists and doctors working together in an integrated and collaborative health practice environment can significantly improve patient care and health outcomes.

This vision identifies a desired future state of collaboration and partnership that is based on strong and supported clinical relationships, optimised for the benefit of the patient and the health system. It outlines the major goals and enablers that will shape and guide the actions that both professions need to take to reach that vision.

Partnership for Care has been prepared by doctors and pharmacists from the New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) and the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand Inc. (PSNZ). It offers a vision of an enhanced patient medication journey and informs the development of health interventions, their delivery and accessibility.
1. **The Patient’s Healthcare Journey**

Doctors and pharmacists will pursue a whole-of-system approach for high quality, coordinated services for patients that focus on patient centred care and population health.

The patient’s healthcare journey will be a seamless continuum of care provided by health professionals that involves diagnosis, prescribing and dispensing of medicines, medicine therapy optimisation, monitoring and patient adherence support for prescribed medicines.

2. **Healthcare Professional Roles**

Pharmacists and doctors will have shared responsibility and specific roles in patient care.

- Doctors providing diagnosis and having primary patient care responsibilities.
- Pharmacists having specialist skills in medicines management and optimisation, being fully utilised.
- Both jointly educating patients about medicines’ side effects and what to do if these occur.
- Both actively monitor and review and contribute to patient care plans.

Through Alliances, doctors and pharmacists will also work collaboratively with nurses and other healthcare professionals as integral members of the healthcare team, providing an integrated care solution for patients.
3 A Shared Working Environment

Pharmacists and doctors will prioritise and enable sharing in joint working environments. This will include having:

- Electronic shared care records, which aid communication for the integrated patient care journey.
- Medicines reconciliation that supports every transfer of care.
- Co-location and consolidation of care services with shared support systems and infrastructure.
- Peer review within the pharmacist-doctor partnership and combined continuing professional development opportunities.

4 Services

Services provided by doctors and pharmacists will be consistent with, and contribute to, the development and achievement of Government’s stated health sector strategies.

New initiatives will be identified and developed jointly, recognising respective roles and expertise, and informed by the best available evidence.

Service design will be underpinned by the Triple Aim for quality improvement:

- Improved quality, safety and experience of care.
- Improved health and equity for all populations.
- Best value for public health system resources.

5 Professional Competence and Ethics

Both professions will have obligations to maintain competence to practice and to continue their professional development. Shared learning and mutual recognition of professional learning as part of the Annual Practising Certificate recertification programmes of Continuing Education/Continuing Medical Education points will be in place. Both professions will support the stated codes and policy positions of the ethics of each and will seek alignment.
Payment Arrangements for Services

More flexible approaches to managing patients’ health care needs will be permitted by flexible funding arrangements in primary care. Greater scope for collaboration and coordination of services will happen by encouraging and enabling alternative funding streams for more comprehensive approaches to servicing the particular needs of the enrolled population and that support other integration enablers such as co-location, management systems.

Designated doctors and pharmacists for Rest homes will be part of funded rest home care.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES
ACTIONING

This 2020 Partnership for Care provides the overarching strategic vision for both professions to develop their goals and objectives for actioning to achieve 2015–2020. Each professional organisation – PSNZ and NZMA – will develop and share key goals and objectives.