

Increasing access to cancer treatments and other medicines | Factsheet

- Today's announcement means Pharmac will receive a \$604 million uplift for medicines over four years, enabling an estimated 54 new or widened access medicines to be funded, with the first becoming available from October/November.
- In total, Pharmac estimates the proposal will fund:
 - 26 cancer treatments covering all cancer types originally listed plus other types not previously included (such as blood cancers);
 - up to seven of the original 13 cancer treatments proposed pre-election, with alternatives for the other treatments that are as or more effective than those originally listed;
 - 28 other medicines that also add substantially to New Zealanders' health and life outcomes, across a wide range of conditions which could include infections, respiratory conditions, osteoporosis, sexual health, dermatology, inflammatory conditions, and mental health.
- Pharmac's estimates change with new information on prices, medicines and effectiveness. Their current estimate is that around 175,000 people will benefit in the first 12 months. Over time, treatments will include 13 cancer treatments, or alternatives as good or better than, from National's 2023 manifesto.
- Pharmac publishes its Options for Investment (OFI) list in alphabetical order. This does not represent the order the medicines will be prioritised for funding once budget becomes available. Seven of the 13 cancer treatments listed in the 2023 manifesto have been assessed by Pharmac and are currently on the OFI.
- The named cancer treatments included in this package are:
 - Atezolizumab with bevacizumab for liver cancer
 - Axitinib for kidney cancer – second-line therapy
 - Cetuximab or panitumumab for bowel cancer – first-line therapy
 - Nivolumab for kidney cancer – second-line therapy
 - Osimertinib for lung cancer – first-line therapy
 - Osimertinib for lung cancer – second-line therapy
 - Pembrolizumab for bladder cancer
- The cancer medicines will include treatments for:
 - Lung cancer
 - Liver cancer
 - Bowel cancer
 - Kidney cancer
 - Bladder cancer
 - Head and neck cancer
 - Melanoma

- A number of other treatments for cancers including blood cancers and other tumours, meaning an estimated 26 additional cancer treatments in all.

Funding

Funding (\$ million)	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28 & outyears	Operating total
Combined Pharmaceutical Budget	108.000	146.000	175.000	175.000	604.000