

10 May 2021

Medicines Classification Committee
c/o Secretary of the Medicines Classification Committee
Medsafe

Via email: committees@health.govt.nz

Dear Medicines Classification Committee

PHARMAC supports the reclassification of allopurinol to improve access and equity

I am writing to indicate PHARMAC's support for the proposal to reclassify allopurinol to improve access and equity. We consider this proposal would help reduce the current health inequities for New Zealanders with gout.

PHARMAC's commitment to tackle medicine access inequities, particularly for Māori, underpins our strategic direction and is most recently detailed in our [Statement of Intent](#). As noted in PHARMAC's publication '[Achieving medicine access equity in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)', elimination of medicine access inequities requires committed collaboration across the whole health system. PHARMAC's data highlights that greater persistence with allopurinol is a key equity issue. PHARMAC considers the reclassification of allopurinol to be a significant enabler in improving persistence and towards access equity for those with gout.

Yours sincerely



Alison Hill
Director of Engagement and Implementation