PHARMAC
TE PĀTAKA WHAIORANGA

Level 9, 40 Mercer Street, Wellington
PO Box 10254, Wellington 6143, New Zealand
P: +64 4 460 4990 | F: +64 4 460 4995
www.pharmac.govt.nz

30 October 2024

Jodie Bruning.
Via email: fyi-request-28616-1f5934e7@requests.fyi.org.nz

Tēnā koe Jodie

Request for information: ADHD, Anxiety, and Depression Medication

Thank you for your request dated 2 October 2024 under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) for information relating to the medications for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, anxiety, and depression. You requested:

> *Please supply the following memos/advice/reports including reports and data for the under 40s age group (this may be further segmented, e.g. by decade) for the years 2014-2024:*
>
> 1. *Numbers of prescriptions for ADHD medication, anxiety medication and depression medication.*
> 2. *Evaluations of incidence/ co-prescribing of ADHD medication, anxiety medication and depression medication.*
> 3. *Numbers of prescriptions for T1/T2 diabetes.*
> 4. *Information held by Pharmac concerning adverse events/side effects of ADHD medication, anxiety medication and depression medication, including from co-prescribing:*
>   a. *From other medicines regulators*
>   b. *Following reviews of the scientific literature*
>   c. *Supplied by the industry applicant.*

In response to parts 1-3 of your request, you will find the information you requested in the excel spreadsheet attached. Regarding question two, Pharmac have defined co-prescription as the number of patients that are dispensed combinations of medication and have provided dispensing figures for years 2014-2024. Pharmac does not hold evaluation information on co-prescribing. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

Regarding part four of your request, Pharmac does not hold data on adverse event/side effects for people who take the medications outlined, or from co-prescribing of these medicines. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the OIA, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

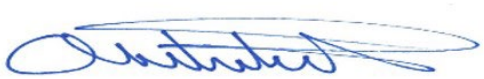
Please note in relation to part four, as you specifically requested what information was held by Pharmac we did not seek a transfer to another agency. The Medsafe website provides a directory for specific medicine datasheets that outline common side effects for medicines.

Additionally adverse event/side effect monitoring and reporting in New Zealand is the responsibility of the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM), information on CARM can also be found on Medsafe's website.

We trust that this information answers your queries. Please note, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman about our response to your OIA, under section 28(3) of the OIA. Details of how to make a complaint are on the Ombudsman's website.

To make information more freely available, we publish selected OIA responses (excluding personal details) on our website. Please get in touch with us if you have any questions about this.

Nāku noa, nā



Oliver Whitehead
Team Leader, Government Services