

25 May 2018

Dear Joe

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your request dated 27 April 2018 under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) for information relating to dispensed drugs, media and events. You asked for:

1. The top 100 dispensed drugs in New Zealand for 2017 (If all different strengths of the medicine could just be counted as one, please).

RANK	Chemical Name	Year	Prescription items*
1	Paracetamol	2017	2,830,000
2	Omeprazole	2017	1,350,000
3	Atorvastatin	2017	1,290,000
4	Amoxicillin	2017	1,280,000
5	Aspirin	2017	1,240,000
6	Ibuprofen	2017	1,080,000
7	Metoprolol succinate	2017	970,000
8	Salbutamol	2017	940,000
9	Cilazapril	2017	800,000
10	Colecalciferol	2017	750,000
11	Prednisone	2017	690,000
12	Amoxicillin with clavulanic acid	2017	690,000
13	Metformin hydrochloride	2017	590,000
14	Zopiclone	2017	580,000
15	Levothyroxine	2017	570,000
16	Loratadine	2017	570,000
17	Simvastatin	2017	530,000
18	Codeine phosphate	2017	500,000
19	Cetirizine hydrochloride	2017	490,000
20	Diclofenac sodium	2017	470,000
21	Tramadol hydrochloride	2017	460,000
22	Felodipine	2017	460,000
23	Flucloxacillin	2017	460,000
24	Docusate sodium with sennosides	2017	450,000
25	Fluticasone propionate	2017	430,000
26	Allopurinol	2017	400,000
27	Furosemide [Frusemide]	2017	390,000
28	Amlodipine	2017	380,000
29	Citalopram hydrobromide	2017	360,000
30	Pharmacy Services	2017	360,000
31	Quinapril	2017	350,000
32	Paracetamol with codeine	2017	320,000
33	Blood glucose diagnostic test strip	2017	320,000
34	Fluticasone with salmeterol	2017	290,000
35	Candesartan cilexetil	2017	280,000
36	Bendroflumethiazide [Bendrofluazide]	2017	280,000

37	Doxycycline	2017	280,000
38	Amitriptyline	2017	270,000
39	Fluoxetine hydrochloride	2017	260,000
40	Hydrocortisone butyrate	2017	260,000
41	Chloramphenicol	2017	260,000
42	Fluticasone	2017	250,000
43	Doxazosin	2017	240,000
44	Quetiapine	2017	240,000
45	Ethinylloestradiol with levonorgestrel	2017	240,000
46	Cilazapril with hydrochlorothiazide	2017	240,000
47	Naproxen	2017	220,000
48	Diltiazem hydrochloride	2017	220,000
49	Lactulose	2017	220,000
50	Warfarin sodium	2017	220,000
51	Venlafaxine	2017	220,000
52	Cetomacrogol with glycerol	2017	220,000
53	Hydrocortisone	2017	220,000
54	Roxithromycin	2017	210,000
55	Sodium Fusidate [fusidic acid]	2017	210,000
56	Losartan potassium	2017	210,000
57	Ondansetron	2017	210,000
58	Morphine sulphate	2017	210,000
59	Folic acid	2017	200,000
60	Pantoprazole	2017	200,000
61	Hydrocortisone with miconazole	2017	190,000
62	Dabigatran	2017	190,000
63	Budesonide with eformoterol	2017	180,000
64	Trimethoprim	2017	180,000
65	Clotrimazole	2017	180,000
66	Cefalexin	2017	180,000
67	Lorazepam	2017	170,000
68	Erythromycin ethyl succinate	2017	170,000
69	Gabapentin	2017	170,000
70	Nicotine	2017	170,000
71	Nortriptyline hydrochloride	2017	160,000
72	Escitalopram	2017	160,000
73	Hydrocortisone with natamycin and neomycin	2017	160,000
74	Gliclazide	2017	150,000
75	Trimethoprim with sulphamethoxazole [Co-trimoxazole]	2017	150,000
76	Oxycodone hydrochloride	2017	150,000
77	Vitamins	2017	140,000
78	Insulin glargine	2017	140,000
79	Clopidogrel	2017	140,000
80	Oestriol	2017	140,000
81	Metronidazole	2017	130,000
82	Loperamide hydrochloride	2017	130,000
83	Sertraline	2017	130,000
84	Cefaclor monohydrate	2017	130,000
85	Unknown	2017	120,000
86	Ferrous sulphate	2017	120,000
87	Ferrous fumarate	2017	120,000
88	Insulin pen needles	2017	120,000
89	Diazepam	2017	120,000
90	Bisoprolol fumarate	2017	120,000
91	Clobetasol propionate	2017	120,000
92	Metoclopramide hydrochloride	2017	120,000
93	Methylphenidate hydrochloride	2017	120,000

94	Oil in water emulsion	2017	110,000
95	Hydroxocobalamin	2017	110,000
96	Paroxetine	2017	110,000
97	Prednisolone	2017	110,000
98	Celecoxib	2017	110,000
99	Betamethasone valerate	2017	110,000
100	Sodium valproate	2017	110,000

*Note that this table shows the number of prescriptions dispensed through community pharmacies for each medicine (chemical) where the prescription has been publicly funded via PHARMAC's processes. PHARMAC does not have details about the private market. A prescription which includes repeats is only counted once. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest ten thousand.

2. The top 100 most expensive drugs publicly funded in New Zealand for 2017.

We have interpreted 'most expensive' as those medicines having the highest budgetary impact per year. Data is outlined in the table below.

RANK	Chemical Name	Year	Cost**
1	Adalimumab	2017	\$79,670,000
2	Paritaprevir, ritonavir and ombitasvir with dasabuvir +/- ribavirin	2017	\$70,290,000
3	Trastuzumab	2017	\$37,150,000
4	Dabigatran	2017	\$35,800,000
5	Fluticasone with salmeterol	2017	\$28,020,000
6	Etanercept	2017	\$27,750,000
7	Insulin glargine	2017	\$26,520,000
8	Pneumococcal (PCV13) vaccine	2017	\$23,280,000
9	Diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, polio, hepatitis B and haemophilus influenzae type B vaccine	2017	\$23,190,000
10	Human papillomavirus (6, 11, 16, 18, 31, 33, 45, 52 and 58) vaccine [HPV]	2017	\$23,020,000
11	Abiraterone acetate	2017	\$21,040,000
12	Pembrolizumab	2017	\$20,670,000
13	Lenalidomide	2017	\$20,370,000
14	Budesonide with eformoterol	2017	\$18,730,000
15	Rituximab	2017	\$16,450,000
16	Moroctocog alfa [Recombinant factor VIII]	2017	\$15,940,000
17	Bortezomib	2017	\$14,290,000
18	Blood glucose diagnostic test strip	2017	\$13,090,000
19	Fingolimod	2017	\$12,650,000
20	Epoetin alfa [Erythropoietin alfa]	2017	\$12,460,000
21	Paliperidone	2017	\$12,180,000
22	Octreotide LAR (somatostatin analogue)	2017	\$11,250,000
23	Pneumococcal (PCV10) vaccine	2017	\$11,230,000
24	Efavirenz with emtricitabine and tenofovir disoproxil fumarate	2017	\$11,200,000
25	Lamotrigine	2017	\$10,810,000
26	Emtricitabine with tenofovir disoproxil fumarate	2017	\$9,850,000
27	Olanzapine	2017	\$9,550,000

28	Mesalazine	2017	\$9,380,000
29	Sodium valproate	2017	\$9,360,000
30	Dasatinib	2017	\$8,830,000
31	Tiotropium bromide	2017	\$8,260,000
32	Salbutamol	2017	\$7,930,000
33	Zoledronic acid	2017	\$7,790,000
34	Dolutegravir	2017	\$7,520,000
35	Entecavir	2017	\$7,490,000
36	Oral feed (powder)	2017	\$7,090,000
37	Insulin aspart	2017	\$7,070,000
38	Pegfilgrastim	2017	\$6,960,000
39	Fluticasone furoate with vilanterol	2017	\$6,940,000
40	Imatinib mesilate	2017	\$6,640,000
41	Metoprolol succinate	2017	\$6,360,000
42	Fluticasone	2017	\$6,330,000
43	Influenza vaccine	2017	\$6,280,000
44	Varenicline tartrate	2017	\$6,250,000
45	Amino acid formula	2017	\$5,770,000
46	Methylphenidate hydrochloride extended-release	2017	\$5,400,000
47	Aripiprazole	2017	\$5,320,000
48	Solifenacin succinate	2017	\$5,100,000
49	Sunitinib	2017	\$5,090,000
50	Enoxaparin sodium	2017	\$5,060,000
51	Tenofovir disoproxil fumarate	2017	\$4,910,000
52	Dimethyl fumarate	2017	\$4,810,000
53	Pertuzumab	2017	\$4,640,000
54	Natalizumab	2017	\$4,570,000
55	Ticagrelor	2017	\$4,510,000
56	Paracetamol	2017	\$4,500,000
57	Ibuprofen	2017	\$4,500,000
58	Total parenteral nutrition (TPN)	2017	\$4,500,000
59	Insulin aspart with insulin aspart protamine	2017	\$4,490,000
60	Gabapentin	2017	\$4,490,000
61	Tacrolimus	2017	\$4,490,000
62	Omeprazole	2017	\$4,420,000
63	Venlafaxine	2017	\$4,400,000
64	Risperidone	2017	\$4,380,000
65	Ledipasvir with sofosbuvir	2017	\$4,330,000
66	Raltegravir potassium	2017	\$4,210,000
67	Ciclosporin	2017	\$4,040,000
68	Atorvastatin	2017	\$4,010,000
69	Levothyroxine	2017	\$3,910,000
70	Goserelin	2017	\$3,810,000
71	Umeclidinium	2017	\$3,790,000
72	Betamethasone dipropionate with calcipotriol	2017	\$3,740,000
73	Nivolumab	2017	\$3,670,000

74	Nicotine	2017	\$3,670,000
75	Nilotinib	2017	\$3,560,000
76	Flecainide acetate	2017	\$3,560,000
77	Levonorgestrel	2017	\$3,440,000
78	Pancreatic enzyme	2017	\$3,440,000
79	Morphine sulphate	2017	\$3,420,000
80	Levetiracetam	2017	\$3,370,000
81	Insulin isophane with insulin neutral	2017	\$3,290,000
82	Insulin lispro	2017	\$3,290,000
83	Azacitidine	2017	\$3,230,000
84	Insulin isophane	2017	\$3,180,000
85	Buprenorphine with naloxone	2017	\$3,180,000
86	Nonacog alfa [Recombinant factor IX]	2017	\$3,120,000
87	Pazopanib	2017	\$3,100,000
88	Rotavirus live reassortant oral vaccine	2017	\$3,050,000
89	Insulin pump	2017	\$3,040,000
90	Insulin lispro with insulin lispro protamine	2017	\$3,030,000
91	Warfarin sodium	2017	\$2,990,000
92	Cilazapril	2017	\$2,990,000
93	Apomorphine hydrochloride	2017	\$2,950,000
94	Measles, mumps and rubella vaccine	2017	\$2,850,000
95	Somatropin (Omnitrope)	2017	\$2,810,000
96	Diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis vaccine	2017	\$2,800,000
97	Obinutuzumab	2017	\$2,760,000
98	Adult diphtheria and tetanus vaccine	2017	\$2,730,000
99	Topiramate	2017	\$2,730,000
100	Alendronate sodium with colecalciferol	2017	\$2,710,000

**Costs are gross and exclude GST and any confidential rebates. Costs have been rounded to the nearest \$10,000.

- How many meetings did you have with MP's listed by their names and parties they represent for 2016 and 2017.

2016

- Two meetings with Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman (National) as Minister of Health
- One meeting with Hon Peter Dunne (United Future) as Associate Minister of Health

2017

- Three meetings with Hon Dr Jonathan Coleman (National) as Minister of Health
- Two meetings with Hon Peter Dunne as Associate Minister of Health
- One meeting with the Minister of Health Hon Dr David Clark (Labour) as Minister of Health
- One meeting with Julie-Anne Genter (Green Party) and Louisa Wall (Labour Party) as Associate Ministers of Health

We have excluded attendances at Select Committee meetings.

We also held parliamentary briefings in 2016 and 2017 to which we invited all MPs – details of these are set out below (question 5).

4. How many media briefings/meetings have you had for 2016 and 2017 listed by media outlets, the topic of the briefing/meeting, and journalist/s attended.

We have interpreted your question to mean background or off-the-record meetings and briefings with journalists, outside of requested interviews with PHARMAC staff. As such, we have not counted interviews with journalists in the response below.

There were no media briefings in 2016 or 2017. PHARMAC held one press conference, in May 2016. We do not hold a record of which journalists attended this press conference.

5. How many events did PHARMAC hold in 2016 and 2017, listed by the number of attendees, amount of money spent on each event and the topic of those events. You clarified by email (11 May 2018) that you wanted all parliamentary functions and educational seminars, listed by number of attendees, amount of money spent on each event and the topic of those events.

Parliamentary functions

Parliamentary briefing

- Date: 28 June 2016
- Number of attendees: 6 MPs and 6 PHARMAC representatives
- Cost: \$306.03 (catering)
- Topic: PHARMAC's work and current priorities

Parliamentary briefing

- Date: 12 April 2017
- Number of attendees: 19 MPs and 7 PHARMAC representatives
- Cost: \$542.36 (catering)
- Topic: PHARMAC recent activity and future focus

Educational seminars

PHARMAC hosts health professional training seminars that provide evidence-based education that contribute to Continuing Professional Development points that are required by health practitioners to continue their practice in New Zealand. Education is provided by New Zealand specialists in their fields ensuring primary care practitioners are up-to-date with relevant medical understanding and knowledge.

Costs are between \$12,000 and \$15,000 per seminar, including the videoing of the seminars; approximately \$3000 of the total cost per seminar is contributed by attendees. Attendees are a range of health professionals such as GPs, nurses, pharmacists, nurse practitioners, midwives, dietitians etc. Between 30 - 35 attendees join the seminars face to face. In addition to attendance at each seminar, people can view these seminars online, and health professionals can also obtain Continuing Professional Development credits for viewing videos. In 2016 the videos received 17,529 views. In 2017 there were 18,314 views.

2016 seminar topics

- Prostate cancer
- Clinical pharmacology for nurses - mental health, obesity
- Adolescent health

- Assessing and managing the neonate
- Health and wellbeing for health professionals
- Polypharmacy
- Insomnia and sleep problems
- Clinical pharmacology for nurses 2
- Travel medicine
- Assessing and managing the neonate (Hamilton)
- Palliative care
- Paediatrics and immunisation
- Management of diabetes in primary care
- Clinical pharmacology - gastro, eyes
- Assessing maternity conditions

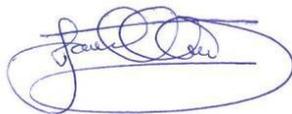
2017 seminar topics

- Clinical pharmacology for nurses
- NZ Asthma guidelines update
- Polypharmacy and deprescribing
- Health and wellbeing for health professionals
- Assessing and managing the neonate
- Osteoporosis and menopause
- Travel medicine (advanced)
- Paediatric allergy
- Dementia update
- Cardiovascular update
- Insulin pump workshop
- Clinical pharmacology for nurses
- Diversity and inclusive primary healthcare
- Adolescent health
- Maternal mental health and complex antenatal conditions
- Movement disorders and Parkinson's disease

More information about our seminars and how they work can be found on our website, [here](#).

We trust that the provision of these documents answers your queries, if you have any further questions please feel free to contact us again.

Yours sincerely



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