

10 September 2019

PHARMAC

By email: [consult@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:consult@pharmac.govt.nz)

**Proposal to widen access to levonorgestrel intrauterine systems (LIUS)**

Dear Sir / Madam

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) wishes to provide feedback on the above proposal. We note that the proposal entails removal of the Special Authority and Hospital restrictions for LIUS 52mg (Mirena) and funding a new LIUS 13.5mg (Jaydess) with no restriction. We note that PHARMAC has estimated that an additional 21,000 people per year would access funded LIUS under this proposal.

The NZMA strongly supports this proposal. The current restrictions are inequitable on a number of fronts. The proposal will make these intrauterine systems much more accessible by widening both access and criteria for use. We would like PHARMAC to also widen access to implantable long-acting reversible contraceptives. Currently, the only such funded implantable is Jadelle which is proving very difficult to remove for even experienced practitioners.

We hope our feedback is helpful.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kate Baddock  
NZMA Chair