

24 March 2025

Submission on the proposal to fund Ryzodeg for the management of diabetes

Te Kāhui Mātai Arotamariki o Aotearoa | The Paediatric Society of New Zealand (PSNZ) supports the proposal to fund Ryzodeg (insulin degludec/insulin aspart) as an alternative option to biphasic insulins currently approved for the management of diabetes.

While Ryzodeg will likely be of most benefit to adults with type 2 diabetes, we note that a number of children and young people with type 1 diabetes may also benefit from access to this medication. For some, simplified insulin regimens can improve adherence, quality of life, and glucose outcomes.

Access to a broader range of insulin options is especially important for paediatric and adolescent populations, whose clinical needs and daily routines may differ from adults. Having flexible options allows clinicians to tailor treatment approaches that support engagement and long-term management, which is critical for avoiding complications and supporting positive transitions into adult care.

We also note that widening access to Ryzodeg could help support health equity, particularly for young people who face barriers to managing complex insulin regimens due to social, developmental, or resource-based challenges.

We encourage PHARMAC to consider how access to diverse treatment options can reduce avoidable disparities in diabetes outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi.

Ngā mihi nui,

Dr Shelley Rose (NZRD MSc PhD), Professional Lead – Dietetics, Palmerston North Hospital

On behalf of the PSNZ Executive Team and the Clinical Network for Children and Young People with Diabetes.

“Tamariki in Aotearoa flourish in health and wellness”