



The Paediatric Society of New Zealand
Te Kāhui Mātai Arotamariki o Aotearoa



25 September 2025

Submission: Proposal to fund a new brand of methylphenidate hydrochloride (Methylphenidate Sandoz XR)

From: Te Kāhui Mātai Arotamariki o Aotearoa | The Paediatric Society of New Zealand (PSNZ)

The PSNZ Neurodevelopment Clinical Network appreciates the opportunity to provide feedback on the proposal to fund a new brand of methylphenidate hydrochloride.

We support the proposal.

We agree that this proposal will help address the shortages experienced since September 2023. Current supply instability has created significant clinical challenges, including treatment interruptions, an increased burden on healthcare providers managing supply issues, and increased pressure on whānau.

Having Methylphenidate Sandoz XR available provides prescribers with another evidence-based option. As a bioequivalent generic to Concerta, it offers the same extended-release profile supporting once-daily dosing and improved adherence. Multiple formulation options enhance our ability to provide individualised care.

This proposal also prepares for the February 2026 changes in diagnosing and prescribing, ensuring adequate supply sources are available to meet anticipated increased demand.

Recommendation

We recommend that PHARMAC proceed with funding Methylphenidate Sandoz XR from December 1, 2025, to strengthen supply resilience and reduce treatment disruptions for patients currently experiencing medication shortages.

Ngā mihi nui,

Dr Colette Muir, Co-chair, PSNZ Neurodevelopment Clinical Network, Developmental Paediatrician

Denise Janes, Co-Chair, PSNZ Neurodevelopment Clinical Network, Clinical Lead, Physiotherapist

“Tamariki in Aotearoa flourish in health and wellness”