

An abstract geometric composition on a dark navy blue background. On the left, a vertical cream-colored rectangle is divided by a thin teal line, with two horizontal teal lines intersecting it at points marked by small teal dots. To the right, a large teal shape is composed of a trapezoid at the bottom and a rectangle on top. A thin white vertical line runs down the center of the teal trapezoid, ending at a small teal circle at its top edge. The text 'New Zealand' is centered in the upper right area in a white, sans-serif font.

New Zealand

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Understanding the applicable framework

Edition 17 remains Medicines New Zealand's primary Code during review, with replacement Section 2 effective October 2026 and other supplementary guidance taking precedence where applicable (Medicines New Zealand, n.d.).

Record all operative sources, especially for pre-approval communications. A saved original Code does not establish current requirements.

What companies need to understand

The incorporated-society transition ended in April 2026. Companies Office states that societies not re-registered by 5 April were removed, subject to its liquidation exception (Companies Office, n.d.).

Check current identity and authority. Discuss community and whānau consultation and do not assume one representative covers every perspective.

What patient organisations need to understand

The Code is self-regulatory with membership and specified non-member implications, not legislation (Medicines New Zealand, n.d.).

Agree purpose, funds, duties and control. Identify sources for limits and policy preferences and explain approvals, delay and cancellation treatment.

Communications and information

Unlike Australia, New Zealand permits regulated public advertising of approved prescription medicines. Mandatory content and restrictions remain relevant, including unapproved medicines (Medsafe, 2023).

Assess purpose, audience, company influence and channels. Separate personal-story publication from participation, and identify privacy and overseas-provider responsibilities.

Regulatory and access participation

Pharmac invites lived experience in formal consultation, including effects on wellbeing and family or whānau. This differs from authorisation and company funding applications (Pharmac, n.d.).

Check application stage and consultation before preparing evidence. Preserve control and avoid implying guaranteed funding or fixed timing.

Practical example and local checks

For society-led consultation and public information, verify current registration, authority and the funding arrangement. Treat official and public outputs separately and check current Code, advertising, privacy and acknowledgement.