

Vital Signs

Thank you for your support



Our Voice

Media

NZMA Chair Kate Baddock talked with a number of media outlets on the coronavirus including: [Newshub](#), [Radio NZ](#), [Waikato Times](#), [Stuff](#), [NZ Doctor](#) and other media.

NZMA GPC Chair Jan White also spoke with the NZ Herald today this has not aired at time of publishing.

NZMA Media Release

NZMA has called for the Government to prioritise support for healthcare workers in the front line against Coronavirus.

“GPs and other health workers at the front line have patients health and safety as their first priority and to make sure they can continue to give that care throughout New Zealand it is vital that the government provides the appropriate support, whether that is personal protective equipment or something else,” says Dr Kate Baddock, Chair of the New Zealand Medical Association.

You can read the full media release [here](#).

DIARY

NZMA CEO Lesley Clarke attended a number of meetings this week including with the Council of Medical Colleges and ACC.



NOMINATE YOUR NZMA LEADERS

Your leadership | Our advocacy

We are only as strong as our collective voice. Be part of our leadership where change begins and decisions are made. NZMA is a strong advocate on medico-political issues, with a strategic programme of advocacy with politicians and officials across the board.

We provide leadership for the medical profession. We promote professional ethics, unity and values for our profession and for the health of all New Zealanders.

a) NZMA Board - two positions

b) Doctors-in-Training Council - four positions

c) Specialist Council - one position

Download the [nomination form here](#), fill in and email to nzma@nzma.org.nz

More [information here](#).

Your current leadership information [here](#).

- *All nominations must have the endorsement of the nominee.*
- Nominations close **midnight Friday 13 March**.
- If more nominations are received than positions available, an election will be held.

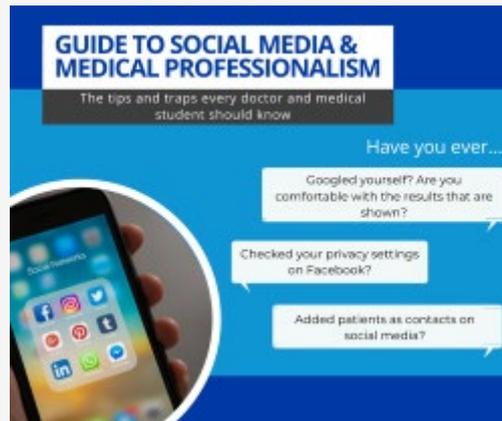
NZMA President nominations

President Dr Sue Hayde finishes her two-year term at the NZMA AGM on 19 May.

Nominations from the membership are now open for this position, which, under the

constitution, will be elected by the Board on 21 April.

If you would like to nominate someone, please email [NZMA](#).



SOCIAL MEDIA GUIDE NOW OUT

[The Guide to Social Media and Medical professionalism](#) is a joint initiative between the New Zealand Medical Association, the Australian Medical Association, the Australian Medical Students Association and the New Zealand Medical Students Association.

The guide includes tips and practical steps to help medical students and doctors navigate the social media landscape.

This new guide encourages doctors and medical student to:

- monitor their own Internet presence to ensure that the personal and professional information on their own sites and content posted about them by others, is accurate and appropriate.
- maintain appropriate boundaries of the patient-physician relationship when interacting with patients online and ensure patient privacy and confidentiality is maintained.
- consider separating personal and professional content online.

Recognise that actions online and content posted can negatively affect their reputations among patients and colleagues, and may even have consequences for their medical careers.

The Guide can be found on the [NZMA website](#).



PRIMARY CARE NURSES MECA

The New Zealand Medical Association (NZMA) and the New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) have been re-negotiating the Primary Health Care (PHC), Multi Employer Collective Agreement (MECA). Agreement was reached with the NZNO for them to take an offer from employers to their members.

The key points to note in the proposed terms of settlement are:

- A 2.5% increase in pay rates for all employees employed under the PHC MECA backdated to 1 September 2019
- A 2% increase in pay rates for all employees employed under the PHC MECA from 1 September 2020
- These increases apply to the current steps only; no new steps have been agreed
- Changes to the merit level criteria for registered nurses
- A new family violence clause which reflects recent legislation

It is proposed that the new collective agreement will take effect from the date of ratification and signature and will run until 31 August 2021, with changes to pay rates taking effect from 1 September 2019 and another increase from 1 September 2020. The term of the agreement is two years.

We believe that this offer is reasonable for employers in the current environment and current funding.

The agreement needs to be ratified by 67% or more of the employers represented by NZMA in order to go to NZNO ratification and, subsequently, to be ratified by more than 50% of NZNO members.

NZMA will be communicating further next week.



INFORMATION FOR PRESCRIBERS ON MEDICINES & COVID-19

The Pharmacy Guild has had a number of community pharmacies inform them of a trend whereby patients are getting early prescriptions from their doctors and then presenting for a three month supply, when they have only used one month of their existing supply of medicine.

It also appears there is an increasing number of patients requesting early repeats of medicines giving the reason “because medicines are going to run out due to coronavirus”.

This excess demand may lead to an imbalance in the national medicine supply chain and potentially stock shortages.

The Pharmacy Guild would like to reassure both prescribers and patients there is no need for to stockpile medicines at home due to coronavirus and no need to request early prescriptions.

Should the situation change we will notify you.



NZMA SEEKING YOUR FEEDBACK

The Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Vaping) Amendment Bill has been introduced to Parliament and is expected to go to Select Committee shortly. The MoH has prepared a [factsheet](#) outlining the key changes that are proposed in the Bill relating to the regulation of the sale and supply of vaping products. These changes include the following:

- ban on sales to persons under 18
- prohibition of advertising and sponsorship
- prohibition of vaping in smokefree areas
- tailored packaging requirements to be set in regulations
- product safety requirements to be set out in regulations

- manufacturers and importers to notify products to MoH before they can be sold
- two types of vaping retailers (generic and specialist) with different requirements and permitted activities
- restrictions on flavours sold at generic retailers (tobacco, mint, menthol) but not at specialist vape retailers.

NZMA's existing position statement on Smokefree New Zealand [is here](#) and addresses vaping (see para 5 in the recommendations). NZMA has also endorsed a joint position on vaping, available [here](#).

Feedback deadline

Monday 23 March



2019 NZMA & NZMSA TEACHING AWARDS- YOUR FEEDBACK WANTED

The second round of nominations for the 2019 NZMA & NZMSA Teaching Awards is underway. NZMA and NZMSA are looking for examples of excellent teaching displayed by the shortlisted finalists to help the judging panel make their final decision as to whom receives each award.

If you know of, or have worked with any of the below shortlisted candidates and can provide relevant information to help the judges in their decision making then please fill in the feedback forms. You can read the candidate profiles by clicking on the links below and then make your nomination and give your feedback to support the panel in making their decision.

RMO Shortlist:

Bryan Bae; Thomas Clendon; Diana Fieldwick; Jamie Harvey; and Jonathan Lee

SMO Shortlist:

Bronwyn Copeland; Rowan French; Marta Kroo; Kyle Perrin and Tom Thomson

Nominations close midnight Sunday 22 March 2020:

[RMO New Zealand Medical Teaching Award finalist profiles](#) | Nominate [here](#)

[SMO New Zealand Medical Teaching Award finalist profiles](#) | Nominate [here](#)

For more information on the [click here](#).



NZ PRIMARY HEALTHCARE AWARDS

Congratulations to all the Primary Healthcare Award Winners.

<https://www.nzphawards.co.nz/winners>