



**National Council of  
Women of New Zealand**

Te Kaunihera  
Wahine O Aotearoa

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**Submission to the Ministry of Health on the discussion Document:  
Update of the Schedule of the Medicines (Designated Prescriber: Optometrist)  
Regulations 2005**

The National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ) is an umbrella organization representing 42 nationally organized societies and individual members. It has 38 branches throughout the country attended by representatives from those societies and some 150 other societies. The Council function is to serve women, the family and the Community at local, national and International levels through research, study discussion and action.

NCWNZ is grateful for this opportunity to make a submission on this consultation document. Members of the Health Standing Committee and from the Nucleus Committee responded to this Discussion Document.

**General Comment**

NCWNZ supports the proposal to update the schedule to the Medicines (Designated prescriber: Optometrist) Regulations 2005 to extend the prescribing rights to appropriately qualified Optometrists. There are a number of benefits for Optometrists and their patients. Optometrists consulted did express respect for the continued consultation with Ophthalmologists as required to facilitate diagnosis as being paramount to their profession.

**Specific Comments**

- NCWNZ Health Standing Committee members who had discussed the document with other Health professionals made the following comments:
- An accurate and current history, including allergies would be required to reduce unwanted side effects- for example systemic absorption, pressor effects.
- Informed consent from the patient must be a prerequisite.
- Record of current prescription and over the counter medication must be maintained.
- AN issue raised was the access to the patient's individual medical records and the privacy issue; however this should be discussed when consent is given.
- General Medical Practitioners would need to be informed and may need to be consulted of what has been prescribed to reduce any future medication reactions.
- Some NCWNZ members were concerned that it was not clear if a requirement for gonioscopy was to be done prior to prescribing a mydratic.





**Conclusion**

As the Health standing Committee generally agreed with this proposal to Update the Schedule to Medicines (Designated Prescriber: Optometrist) Regulations 3005 we look forward to seeing the outcome and thank you for the opportunity to comment

Christine Low  
**President**

Christine Davies  
**Convener Health Standing Committee**



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