



6 July, 2018

Boosted service delivers lower cost after hours-care to those who need it most

Eligible patients will pay no more than \$39 for after-hours and overnight care at selected urgent care clinics under a new-and-improved service negotiated by Waitemata and Auckland District Health Boards. The move also provides free care to under-13-year-olds and is part of a region-wide initiative to reduce inequities and provide affordable after-hours and overnight urgent health care options for those who need them most. Subsidised care applies to patients already eligible to receive publicly funded New Zealand healthcare who are:

- Over-65
- Community Service Card (CSC) or High User Health Card (HUHC) holders



Tim Wood, Deputy Director of Funding for both DHBs, says the newly-negotiated service delivers four more options than were previously available to eligible patients, improving access and providing greater consistency around pricing.

“A key component of this process has been to establish a network of urgent care clinics that charge no more than \$39 for our high-needs populations,” he says. “This is all about reducing some of the cost barriers that may have affected some of our patients in the past by making after-hours health care more affordable and accessible.

“The new service provides four more clinics than were previously available across this combined area and potentially caters for thousands of patients across an incredibly vast area – from Whangaparaoa in the north to Otahuhu in the south.”

Waitemata and Auckland DHBs do not contract with every urgent care clinic across their catchments and have no influence over fees charged by those outside of the new agreement.

The latest move complements the similarly-timed announcement of greater access to after-hours care at Counties Manukau DHB where the same fee caps and eligibility criteria apply at selected clinics.

ends

For further information, contact:

Waitemata DHB Media Line

Ph. 4871276