

## Pharmacist Medicine Review Services in New Zealand – is there equity for Māori older adults? Where are we at and what needs to change?

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**Introduction:** Pharmacist involvement in medicines review and optimisation services have been shown internationally to improve outcomes for older adults. New Zealand (NZ) policy identifies the need for pharmacist review of medicines for older adults, as part of a collaborative healthcare team. Policy is also underpinned by the right of Māori to experience equitable health outcomes. Further investigation is needed to understand whether pharmacist medicines review services are effective and responsive to the needs of older Māori.

### **Aims:**

- Examine literature to understand the effectiveness of pharmacist medicines review services in NZ and on health equity for community dwelling Māori older adults
- Explore experiences and needs of Māori older adults in relation in medicines and medication-related services

**Method:** A systematic review was performed in accordance with the PRISMA-Equity statement. Narrative semi-structured interviews were conducted in Māori older adults from within Waitematā District Health Board. Thematic analysis of interview transcripts was conducted. All work was undertaken within a kaupapa Māori framework which examines power relationships, Māori right to participate in research and aims for positive, transformative change for Māori.

**Results:** The seven studies included in the review were limited in their ability to show effectiveness of the intervention and there was no incorporation of culturally appropriate frameworks into service design or delivery.

Major themes generated from interviews included the impact of medicines on daily life, power dynamics at play in the medication therapy process and importance of shared conversation in deciding treatment plans. Participants reported the desire to know more about their medicines and for this advice to come from someone with expert knowledge, delivered in a 'safe' place.

**Conclusion:** Pharmacists have a role to play in helping to achieve equity for older Māori by creating services that incorporate international learnings and are responsive to self-determined need of Māori.