|  |
| --- |
| **A theory of change for medicine access equity in New Zealand** |
| **Setting/problem**  Delivering equitable health outcomes for all New Zealanders is a Government priority. However, not all New Zealanders are achieving ‘best health outcomes’ from medicines funded by PHARMAC, New Zealand’s pharmaceutical management agency. Research shows that uptake of funded medicines in New Zealand’s Māori (indigenous) population indicates Māori are continuing to receive medicines in the community at a lower rate than non-Māori, despite their health need being higher – contributing to greater inequities in health. This means Māori are not able to benefit from medicines in the same way as non-Māori. Evidence from elsewhere suggests other groups, such as Pacific peoples, are also not fully able to access and utilise the funded medicines that are available.  **Intervention**  The causes of inequities are complex, and solutions do not lie solely with the funding of medicines, or within the health system. PHARMAC has a working theory of where the changes may be required in relation to access to medicines. It identifies four primary drivers that facilitate medicine access; medicine availability, medicine accessibility, medicine affordability, medicine acceptability. Each of these primary drivers has several related secondary (or contributing) drivers and PHARMAC has different levels of impact on these drivers. This approach is helping us to shape and inform ideas for change.  **Outcomes**  The desired outcome of this work programme is to eliminate inequities in access to medicines, initially focussing on access to medicines already funded by PHARMAC for Māori and Pacific populations.  **Implications**  Depending on the levels of impact PHARMAC has on drivers that can facilitate equitable access to medicines, the implications are likely to span across the policy, practice and regulatory areas, both within PHARMAC and in the wider health sector. These implications are likely to be innovative in their design and implementation as it will require a paradigm shift and a change in status quo.  **Preferred presentation format**  Oral Presentation |