



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision

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Regulatory Changes to Healthcare Provisions in Oranga Tamariki Residences

Portfolio **Children**

On 12 November 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

- 1 **agreed** to amend the Oranga Tamariki (Residential Care) Regulations 1996 (the Regulations) so that:
 - 1.1 trained and authorised staff in the Care and Protection and Youth Justice residences (residences) can administer specified emergency injectable medications;
 - 1.2 EpiPens may be administered in residences without a prescription;
 - 1.3 new emergency injectable medications in the future can be approved for use in residences at chief executive level on the advice of clinical experts, rather than requiring amendments to secondary legislation;
 - 1.4 children and young people in residence have access to the services of Nurse Practitioners, while maintaining the right for children and young people to access a medical practitioner if they prefer;
 - 1.5 children and young people in residences have access to prescribed medications from authorised prescribers under the Medicines Act 1981 (and not just from doctors, which is the current situation);
- 2 **agreed** to implement regulatory and operational safeguards that:
 - 2.1 restrict the administration of injectable medications to authorised staff only who will be trained in the use of EpiPens as part of their first aid certification, and in glucagon kits as required;
 - 2.2 ensure authorised staff are required to complete annual refresher training;
 - 2.3 ensure authorisation is suspended if a complaint of abusive behaviour is made against a staff member, pending the outcome of any investigation;
 - 2.4 require any use of emergency injectable medications be reported to:
 - 2.4.1 the health services team within the residence;
 - 2.4.2 Health New Zealand and internal Oranga Tamariki governance bodies;

- 3 **invited** the Minister for Children (the Minister) to issue drafting instructions to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft amendments to the Regulations that give effect to the above policy decisions;
- 4 **authorised** the Minister, in consultation with the Minister of Health, to make any further policy decisions not inconsistent with the policy in the paper under SOU-25-SUB-0158, on any issues that arise during the drafting process.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:

Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
Hon Nicola Willis
Hon Simeon Brown
Hon Tama Potaka
Hon Matt Doocey
Hon Nicole McKee
Hon Casey Costello
Hon Karen Chhour
Hon Penny Simmonds
Hon Scott Simpson

Officials present from:

Office of the Minister of Health
Officials Committee for SOU