Policy Title	therapeutic products and services companies
Approved by	RDNZ Board
Approval date	24 September 2026
Scheduled review	24 September 2028
Responsible person	Chief Executive
Status	Final

Rationale

To enable RDNZ to work transparently with and accept financial contributions from pharmaceutical, diagnostic and other companies which offer, or may offer, therapeutic products and services to New Zealanders living with rare disorders (companies), so that:

- Any engagement always supports the best specific and general interests of New Zealanders living with rare disorders seeking access to rare disorders medicines and other therapeutic products and services
- Any regular financial contributions are received on an unrestricted basis and do not confer, and are not seen to confer, any direct reciprocal benefit to the contributing company
- RDNZ reputational risks arising from engagement with companies are minimised

Policy

1. RDNZ's engagement with every company will always be in the paramount interests of New Zealanders living with rare disorders.

2. RDNZ will facilitate bringing consumers' expertise, voices and lived experiences to Pharmac's and other health purchasing agencies' decision making processes without requiring or accepting any directly related company financial contribution.
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3. RDNZ's engagement with every financially contributing company will always be fully transparent. This means that:
   a. Every company with which RDNZ has a financial relationship will be publicly identified on RDNZ's website together with the amount of any regular financial contributions, the general terms of associated documented agreements, and this "therapeutic products and services companies" policy
   b. Company logos will be high resolution and of equal proportion. Logos shall appear in alphabetical order and shall not be hyper-linked to companies' websites
   c. Company sponsorship of specific RDNZ events and initiatives will be acknowledged in any RDNZ promotional and publicity, with disclosure of the amount subject to the agreement of the sponsoring company
   d. Total revenue from companies shall be identifiable in RDNZ's published annual accounts

4. RDNZ will operate a Round Table of Companies (RTC) for the purposes of conveying information and intelligence to companies about the access to rare disorders therapeutic products and services landscape and related matters. RTC participation will be subject to:
   a. a standard annual financial contribution to RDNZ.

b. A mutually agreed MoU or similar which includes the company's agreement with RDNZ's "therapeutic products and services companies" policy and Medicines New Zealand's Code of Conduct

5. RDNZ will independently set its own priorities, policies and plans. Companies' annual RTC financial contributions shall therefore be available to RDNZ on an unrestricted basis and shall be expended at RDNZ's sole discretion.

6. RDNZ will not allocate or accept or solicit pharmaceutical company financial contributions to its access to medicines support and advocacy activities and programmes.

7. RDNZ will not allocate or accept or solicit other company financial contributions to its support and advocacy activities and programmes in respect of those companies' products and services

8. RDNZ may at its sole discretion allocate company financial contributions to any other activities, programmes and initiatives set out in its strategic, annual operating and revenue plans

9. RDNZ's organisational values will underpin its relationship with companies. Consistent with its kotahitanga value RDNZ will advocate to therapeutic products and services purchasers for companies to be considered stakeholders rather than adversaries.

10. RDNZ will seek to develop relationships with multiple pharmaceutical and other companies, and not seek to develop a relationship with only one particular company in any product or service sector.

11. All financial relationships with companies will be documented in signed memoranda of understanding (MOU) or similar.

12. RDNZ will not engage with Pharmac and other purchasers' price negotiations with companies, and recognises purchasers' role on behalf of New Zealand taxpayers and the government in negotiating best possible prices for therapeutic products and services

13. RDNZ will neither endorse nor disparage individual pharmaceutical or other therapeutic products or therapeutic services, nor will it condone any implied or purported RDNZ endorsement or disparagement in companies' own promotional material, including media releases. Specifically, RDNZ shall not agree to:

    a. Participate as a speaker/attendee in a company's product launch event;
    b. Participate in any meeting sponsored by an individual company to inform patients on their products;
    c. A company displaying or disseminating RDNZ's or rare disorder support group material on the company's exhibition stand at any trade exhibition or scientific conference;
    d. Appearing in promotional materials for a certain product to testify as a "consumer" of that therapeutic product or service.