



Health Committee Newsletter: May 2016

NZ Health Insurers

[Nib to buy OnePath Life medical insurance business](#)

Late last year, NIB Medical purchased the entirety of Onepath's medical insurance business for \$25 million. Onepath will continue selling life and disability insurance unchanged.

[Southern Cross to fund preventative treatment](#)

Southern Cross is adding an allowance for prophylactic treatment and increasing the surgical claim limit on most of its plans.

This appears to be a departure from what is occurring overseas – AXA PPP Healthcare, Vitality Health and Aviva UK Life said they did not cover preventive mastectomies. Aviva UK Life and Vitality Health said they would fund breast removal if cancer had been diagnosed in the other breast, and Vitality Health said it would fund ovary removal in BRCA positive breast cancer was found to be hormone-sensitive.

An [article from the UK](#) is included by way of contrast.

[NZ's 2nd largest health insurer ups its game by gunning for health conscious employers; new initiative follows 4 major partnerships & acquisitions this year](#)

NIB is pursuing the corporate market with Fitbits and other tech-savvy tools, in its bid to win over some of the 70% of New Zealanders without private health insurance. New Zealand's second largest health insurer is set to launch a corporate health

[Goodbye to fringe benefits](#)

Business needs to take a bigger approach to health, writes Peter Tynan, chief executive of Southern Cross Health Society. The Affordable healthcare Bill didn't pass its first reading in Parliament last week.

Public health in NZ

First data from new national collection

The Ministry of Health has today published the first release of developmental data from Phase 1 of the new National Patient Flow national collection.

National Patient Flow is a significant development which, in its full form, will measure the patient journey through secondary care services.

New Zealand Health Strategy 2016

The New Zealand Health Strategy sets the direction of health services to improve the health of people and communities.

The 2016 New Zealand Health Strategy refreshes the previous strategy, developed in 2000. It was developed with the help of sector leaders, independent reports, extensive public consultation, and was informed by other government programmes and initiatives.

The Strategy has two parts.

- New Zealand Health Strategy: Future direction
- New Zealand Health Strategy: Roadmap of actions 2016

If Keytruda keeps melanoma patients alive, why isn't it available free in NZ?

Petitions with 54,000 signatures were presented to Parliament on Tuesday calling on the Government to fund new paradigm drug Keytruda, which unleashes the body's immune system to fight cancer.

Expert committees of Government drug-buying agency Pharmac have recommended Keytruda - also known as pembrolizumab - should be funded for people with advanced melanoma, but they only gave their recommendation a low priority.

\$4m boost for colonoscopy services

The Government is making available an extra \$4 million for colonoscopy services. Health minister Jonathan Coleman said the extra money would be made available for district health board colonoscopy services

Hospital cuts: Where they'll hit hard

Hospitals have been told to make \$138 million in savings over this financial year and some have signalled they'll cut costs through staff vacancies which have not been filled. It has prompted claims of increased safety risks to patients because of stressed out and tired staff who are not being allowed to take the holidays they are owed.

New Zealand – ACC

\$20m extra for ACC as 'treatment injuries' soar

The ACC will invest up to \$20 million in an effort to reverse a rising tide of injuries from treatment. Data from the state's no fault insurer shows that new "treatment injuries" have soared from 3820 in 2010 to 7014 last year, with the cost climbing from \$87m to \$139m a year during the same period.

ACC records leap in medical botch-ups

Medical botch-ups have almost doubled in the past four years, pushing up the cost for ACC to nearly \$140 million. Data from ACC, the state's no fault insurer, shows that new "treatment injuries" have soared from 3820 in 2010 to 7014 last year, with the cost climbing from \$87m to \$139m a year over the same period.

Other Health Related

Don't kill cancer, learn to live with it, say scientists

Managing cancer with low doses of chemotherapy could be more effective than attempting to kill the disease, scientists believe.