



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 24th January 2019

Northland DHB Pharmacy Strike to go ahead tomorrow

Pharmacists and Pharmacy Technicians represented by APEX and employed by Northland DHB and based at Whangarei will take strike action tomorrow. The strike is due to frustration over not receiving any offer of settlement for their collective agreement from the DHB.

A strike notice has been issued for a complete withdrawal of labour, commencing 0730 Friday 25th of January and ending 24 hours later, on 26th of January.

“It is extremely disappointing that our members have yet to receive an offer in writing despite APEX and Northland DHB first meeting to negotiate on the 12th of June 2018,” says Denise Tairua, APEX advocate.

“We most recently met on the 6th of December. A further meeting to present an offer was scheduled for the 19th of December but was cancelled that morning, and since then no offer has been forthcoming.”

Ms Tairua concludes, “The ball is in the DHB’s court to make our members an offer.”

ABOUT HOSPITAL PHARMACISTS AND PHARMACY TECHNICIANS

Pharmacists

The overarching responsibility of a pharmacist is to ensure medication is appropriate & safe for a patient. This can be done in various ways which include assessing the individual patient as to whether the drug, route, frequency and dose is appropriate or if it requires modifying. The pharmacist will check for drug interactions, co-morbidities & presenting condition. Pharmacists also provide advice to patients, caregivers and other healthcare professionals on medicines. A pharmacist can have many different roles, such as a clinical pharmacist who works with patients & other healthcare professionals on the wards & in clinics – being a pharmacist-prescriber or working as a specialist pharmacist within a speciality such as oncology, cardiology, clinical trials or surgery. Pharmacists are also involved in the supply of medicines from the dispensary or a sterile or non-sterile manufacturing area.

Pharmacy Technician

Pharmacy Technician duties may include the processing of prescriptions and dispensing of medicines, imprest stock management, repacking bulk medicines, and monitoring and delivery of medication to hospital wards and departments. Pharmacy technicians deal with hazardous substances, compounding cytotoxic medicines, suspensions, ointments and creams under the supervision of pharmacists. A hospital trained pharmacy technician may also work in a ward setting,

performing medicine reconciliation on admission and discharge. This entails speaking with the patient to obtain a thorough medication history, giving medicine information to patients, liaising with medical staff and working alongside the pharmacist as part of the team.

FURTHER INFORMATION

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