



9 September 2020

Dear Sir/Madam

FundaPen™ finishes after 2,875 New Zealanders receive free EpiPens

Thank you to your team and your member practices

On behalf of Allergy New Zealand, I would like to wholeheartedly thank you and all prescribers in your member practices for supporting the FundaPen™ campaign, which has now ended.

A total of 2,875 New Zealanders, who have been diagnosed as at risk of anaphylaxis, received a free EpiPen® in the last nine months, through the generous support of PHOs and clinicians.

Not one health professional we approached asked why they should support FundaPen™. They all asked how they could support it. That can-do attitude was critical and really demonstrated to us the overwhelming support for adrenaline autoinjector pens to be funded like any other essential medicine. We are also very grateful to Pub Charity for donating \$300,000 to pay for the pens and their distribution.

The positive feedback from the allergy community has been almost overwhelming. Our Facebook page received 100,000 hits in the first 24 hours, following the public launch of FundaPen™. The enduring question on the page has of course been why can't it be like this all the time?

Now that FundaPen™ has ended, we are hoping the government and Pharmac will allow us to work with them, to find a way to fund this lifesaving medicine. Until then we'll keep battling for people with life threatening allergies, who really deserve a whole lot better than they are getting at the moment. Thank you for your continued support and please pass on the appreciation of our fast-growing allergy community to your members.

Yours sincerely

Mark Dixon

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