

Media Release

From: Jan McLaren, Communications Advisor

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Subject: Reduced costs for over 65s

CHEAPER PRIMARY CARE FOR PEOPLE AGED 65 AND OVER

From tomorrow (1 July) Wairarapa people aged 65 and over will pay less to visit to their doctor and less for their prescriptions.

All general practices in the Wairarapa are lowering their charges by at least \$20 for older people. From tomorrow, older people visiting the doctor with whom they are enrolled will pay no more than \$22 per visit. Many practices will charge less than this. Prescription costs will reduce to \$3 per item for most drugs.

“This is a huge step forward in making it easier for older people to use primary health care when they need it,” says Joy Cooper, Wairarapa District Health Board’s Director of Planning and Funding. “We congratulate the Wairarapa Community PHO on its commitment to achieving low cost access for more of its enrolled population. Wairarapa has lower charges for primary health care than many other areas of New Zealand.”

Wairarapa now has low charges for older people, as well as free care for children under six across the whole of the district, for those enrolled with the PHO visiting their usual doctor.

EASIER ACCESS TO SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES

Wairarapa DHB is delighted that from 1 July, sexual health services will be more widely available through all general practitioners and nurses associated with Wairarapa Community Public Health Organisation (PHO).

This means free sexual health services will be offered for all people aged under 19 years, and for those aged under 25 years who have a community services card, in every town in the Wairarapa health district. The services will provide information and advice on all sexual health matters, the morning after pill, and screening and treatment for sexually-transmitted diseases.

A key feature of the new service is that people may access any doctor or nurse, not just their usual GP. Complete confidentiality is assured at all times.

“I am very pleased that new service will provide more choice, and be available in more places, for longer hours than Choice Health was able to offer,” says Maggie Morgan, Manager of Choice Health, the former provider of Wairarapa’s sexual health services.

To access the new service people should contact any medical centre in Wairarapa, or ring: 0800 188 881.

Ends

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