



Cancer Society of New Zealand
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NEWS RELEASE

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Many more medicines will be restricted, says Cancer Society

The Cancer Society says it is unfortunate that money has taken precedence over the lives of people with breast cancer, and warns that, like Herceptin, many more medicines will be restricted because of lack of funding.

“We really feel for breast cancer patients, their families and their carers,” Cancer Society Chief Executive, Dalton Kelly, said.

“Their lives have been turned upside down by difficulties accessing a proven treatment. This has been compounded by lack of funding and prolonged wrangling about the issue.

“The clinical evidence supports a regime of taking Herceptin for 12 months, but Pharmac maintains this regime is not cost-effective.

“While this is an awful situation, it will become increasingly common because New Zealand’s medicines budget is not keeping pace with the development of the new and more sophisticated treatments and other innovative therapies that are becoming available in other parts of the world.

“New Zealanders have as much right to these treatments as citizens in any other developed country.

“Unless we review how we fund and provide access to essential medicines, more and more New Zealanders will be unable to access them.”

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