



Together we're stronger
Tangata tū pakari tonu

PHARMAC

Via email: consult@pharmac.govt.nz

30 January 2020

Re: Proposal to fund palbociclib (Ibrance) as a first-line and second-line treatment of HR-positive, HER2-negative locally advanced or metastatic breast cancer.

Dear PHARMAC,

The Breast Cancer Aotearoa Coalition is supportive of the proposal to fund palbociclib as described in the consultation released on 15th January at:

<https://www.pharmac.govt.nz/news/consultation-2020-01-15-palbociclib/#feedback>.

Funding this medicine will have a positive impact on thousands of New Zealand women and their families.

We are concerned at the requirement for women receiving first-line palbociclib to have been post-menopausal (amenorrhoeic) for at least 12 months, either naturally or induced. We ask that PHARMAC seek expert opinion on the need for 12 months of amenorrhoea as we fear this requirement may delay treatment for women who would benefit from earlier treatment.

We also note that many Metavivors have expressed concern at the use of the term "second-line" as they fear it may exclude those whose cancers have progressed on treatments beyond the second treatment after diagnosis of advanced breast cancer. It would be reassuring for these patients if this was expressed as "second-line (later-line)" or similar.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Libby Burgess'.

Libby Burgess
Chair, Breast Cancer Aotearoa Coalition

