



**Te Ao Maramatanga  
New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses (Inc.)  
Partnership, Voice, Excellence in Mental Health Nursing**

Sharon Smith  
Group Administrator  
Sector & Services Policy  
Ministry of Health  
[sharon\\_woollaston@moh.govt.nz](mailto:sharon_woollaston@moh.govt.nz)

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Dear Sharon

Te Ao Maramatanga New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses would like to support midwives and nurse practitioners to prescribe controlled drugs (in line with authorised prescribing due to come into effect for nurse practitioners).

Prescribing within scope of practice enables a more comprehensive and efficient means of providing patient care, for example this would allow nurse practitioners to provide anxiolytic benzodiazepines for the short term management of anxiety in line with best practice guidelines.

The College would also like to support Louise Leonard (NP in addictions and a College member) with her feedback dated 6 April. As an expert in her field, she articulates challenges she would experience with the current timeframes suggested, and with OST prescribing.

Please contact us with any further questions.

Regards,

**Daryle Deering** RN PHD  
President  
Te Ao Maramatanga NZCMHN®

Tish Siaosi RPN, Dip Nursing (MH)  
Ngati Mutunga o Wharekauri  
Kaiwhakahaere  
Te Ao Maramatanga NZCMHNS