

Ngā rongoā kāore i te utua me
ngā whakamātautau haumanu.

Unfunded drugs and clinical trials

A guide for bowel cancer patients and their whānau.



At a glance...

- Not all cancer drugs for treating bowel cancer are fully funded in New Zealand.
- For drugs that aren't fully funded, cost-capped drug payment plans with pharmaceutical companies are available.
- Clinical trials may offer new medicines that are useful after standard treatment options are exhausted.

“A stage 4 bowel cancer diagnosis meant unfunded drugs were my only chance at spending more time with my family. And that is exactly what they did.”

KATHERINE ANDREW, BOWEL CANCER SURVIVOR

Unfunded drugs

Currently, there are two targeted therapies, Erbitux (cetuximab) and Avastin (bevacizumab) and one immune check-point inhibitor (also known as immunotherapy) Keytruda (pembrolizumab) that aren't funded in New Zealand for the treatment of metastatic bowel cancer.

Cost-capped plans currently available

The manufacturers of Keytruda (MSD), Erbitux (Merck Serono) and Avastin (Roche) offer cost-capped plans to help pay for these medicines. *Please note these plans only cover the cost of medications and not administration fees. Unfunded treatments currently can only be administered at private hospitals and not in the public system.*



Want to know more?

You'll find more detailed information on unfunded drugs and clinical trials on our website: bowelcancernz.org.nz > About bowel cancer > Treatment options > Unfunded drugs and clinical trials

Other funding options

Bowel cancer patients often use a variety of funding options to supplement the cost-capped plans. These range from crowdfunding to private health insurance to accessing KiwiSaver. Fundraising suggestions can be found on our website under About bowel cancer > Treatment options > Unfunded drugs.

Clinical trials

Cancer Trials New Zealand and Clinical Trial Units in public hospitals run trials to investigate new ways of preventing, diagnosing, treating and monitoring cancer. Some clinical trials offer medicines that may work better or have fewer side effects than current treatment options. Participating in a trial helps advance research that can benefit others in the future.



Helpful tip

If you're interested in taking part in a cancer trial, ask your oncologist if you're eligible for any recruiting currently or in the future.



NEED SUPPORT?

Contact our bowel cancer support nurse:
Email: here4you@bowelcancernz.org.nz
Phone: 0800 BCNZ NURSE (226 968)

Join our private Facebook group:
bowelcancernz.org.nz > Support > Finding Support

CONTACT US

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