

# Government Policy Statement on Health 2024–2027

The long-term vision for the health system is to achieve longer life expectancy and improved quality of life for all New Zealanders.

## PURPOSE OF THE GPS

- The GPS sets out the Government’s priorities, objectives and expectations for the health system over the next three years.
- It sets parameters for the New Zealand Health Plan, a three-year costed plan developed by Health New Zealand for the delivery of publicly funded health services.
- The GPS includes the Government’s priorities for improving health outcomes for all New Zealanders, including those with the highest needs (Māori, Pacific peoples, disabled people, women, and people living rurally).
- The GPS is a key accountability document within the health system, as set by the Pae Ora Act. It builds from the Health Strategies.
- The three-year focus for the health system is to ensure timely access to quality health care.
- The GPS sets out five priority areas for the health system: access, timeliness, quality, workforce and infrastructure.
- The commitment and focus on improving access and timeliness are reinforced in the health targets and mental health targets.


## PRIORITY AREAS

 Access

 Timeliness

 Quality

 Workforce

 Infrastructure

## HOW THE GPS PRIORITIES WILL BE ACHIEVED



### Action on five non-communicable diseases

Focus on cancer, cardiovascular disease, respiratory disease, diabetes and poor mental health and five modifiable risk factors: alcohol, tobacco, poor nutrition, physical inactivity and adverse social and environmental factors.



### Focus on prevention

Prioritise investment to support a stronger prevention approach. This includes early access to screening, immunisation, early intervention and wellbeing/lifestyle supports.



### Focus on financial sustainability

Increase the use of evidence in decisions about how to get best value for money from existing resources and new investments to ensure best use of resources over time.



### Partnering on health determinants

Take action to address social determinants and environmental factors, including by partnering and influencing across sectors, nationally and within communities at local and regional level.



### Focus on health outcomes in high need populations

Improve health outcomes for populations with the highest needs, by involving them in the design and delivery of services.

Improve Māori health by shifting decision-making closer to people and communities.

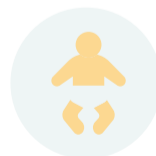
## TARGETS TO FOCUS THE SYSTEM

The health system should accelerate action to prevent and respond to the health and mental health targets

### Health Targets



90% of patients to receive cancer management within 31 days of the decision to treat



95% of children are fully immunised at 24 months of age



95% of patients to be admitted, discharged or transferred from an emergency department within 6 hours\*



95% of patients wait less than 4 months for a first specialist assessment



95% of patients wait less than 4 months for elective treatment\*

### Mental Health Targets



80% of people accessing specialist mental health and addiction services are seen within 3 weeks



80% of people accessing primary mental health and addiction services through the Access and Choice programme are seen within 1 week



95% of MH&A related Emergency Department (ED) presentations are admitted, discharged or transferred from ED within 6 hours.



Train 500 mental health and addiction professionals each year








25% of mental health and addiction investment is directed towards prevention and early intervention

\*All of Government target

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## Priority areas, objectives and expectations for the next three years

PRIORITY AREA & VISION	OBJECTIVES	EXPECTATIONS
<p><b>1. Access</b></p>  <p>Every person, regardless of where they live in New Zealand, has equitable access to the health care and services they need.</p>	<p><b>1.1</b> Improve access to and choice of primary and community health care services and diversify the points of entry and support.</p> <p><b>1.2</b> Develop models of care to better meet people's needs closer to home.</p> <p><b>1.3</b> Increase access to online health services (including telehealth) and improve access to communication, information and transport and accommodation assistance.</p> <p><b>1.4</b> Improve cancer screening.</p> <p><b>1.5</b> Faster access to medicines and pharmaceuticals.</p>	<p><b>20 expectations including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• deliver immunisation services that meet the needs of communities</li> <li>• expand the choice of whānau-centred and holistic maternity and early years' services</li> <li>• work in partnership with IMPBs to ensure primary and community care services are increasingly tailored to better respond to the needs of Māori</li> <li>• improve access to bowel screening</li> <li>• improve the availability of and access to cancer medicines in New Zealand.</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Timeliness</b></p>  <p>People can access the health care and services they need in a prompt and efficient way.</p>	<p><b>2.1</b> Reduce waiting times for appointments, operations and emergency care.</p> <p><b>2.2</b> Faster access to primary and community health care services.</p> <p><b>2.3</b> Improve cancer management.</p>	<p><b>9 expectations including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce wait times to access first specialist assessments</li> <li>• reduce wait times for specialist mental health and addiction services</li> <li>• reduce the time spent in emergency departments</li> <li>• ensure access to general practice and mental health and addiction services within a reasonable timeframe</li> <li>• support strengthened public and population health initiatives for non-communicable diseases to reduce pressure on the system</li> <li>• ensure timely access to cancer services through waitlist management and targets.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3. Quality</b></p>  <p>Health care and services delivered in New Zealand are safe, easy to navigate, understandable and welcoming to users, and are continuously improving.</p>	<p><b>3.1</b> Benchmark and monitor quality of care.</p> <p><b>3.2</b> Enable the use and generation of evidence, information, research and evaluation across the health system by using implementation science principles and concepts.</p> <p><b>3.3</b> Enhance processes for quality improvement and strengthen the handling of quality concerns.</p>	<p><b>12 expectations including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• enable better information and data sharing arrangements across the health and social system</li> <li>• strengthen clinical and lived experience networks</li> <li>• develop system functions and settings to support the rapid adoption of new, evidence-based technologies, research findings, and innovation</li> <li>• strengthen pathways for utilising patient voice across the system</li> <li>• extend the development of Patient-Reported Experience and Outcome Measures to enhance assessment of the effectiveness of health care</li> <li>• continue to develop the Pharmac model to ensure patient voice and wide-ranging societal consequences are considered.</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Workforce</b></p>  <p>The health workforce should be available and accessible, and responsive to the range and complexity of health needs. The workforce has the development opportunities that they require for productivity and delivering quality care across all populations.</p>	<p><b>4.1</b> Improve training pathways and develop a more culturally safe and competent workforce.</p> <p><b>4.2</b> Strengthen health system leadership locally, regionally and nationally.</p> <p><b>4.3</b> Retain, value, and recognise the workforce.</p> <p><b>4.4</b> Recruit for workforce gaps.</p>	<p><b>13 expectations including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• increase the capacity of the mental health and addiction workforce</li> <li>• improve access to domestic training pathways to deliver a culturally competent and home-grown workforce that better reflects the population</li> <li>• increase training places for doctors and grow the numbers of those training as nurses, midwives and allied health professionals</li> <li>• monitor the experience of health workers and target initiatives at issues that improve workers' experiences and work environments</li> <li>• review regulatory settings related to the health workforce.</li> </ul>
<p><b>5. Infrastructure</b></p>  <p>The system has the digital and physical infrastructure it needs to meet people's needs now and into the future</p>	<p><b>5.1</b> Long-term national planning.</p> <p><b>5.2</b> Committed funding with competent delivery.</p> <p><b>5.3</b> Enable evidence-based digital solutions.</p>	<p><b>10 expectations including:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• develop a 10-year national infrastructure and investment plan and national asset management strategy by the end of 2024</li> <li>• ensure approved projects are delivered on time and within budget</li> <li>• continue to progress digital initiatives to enable care closer to home</li> <li>• enable flexible and adaptive decision-making on emerging technologies such as precision health, nanotechnology, artificial intelligence and medical devices for example, updating evaluation frameworks, including Health Technology Assessment.</li> </ul>