



Sent by: f OH
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To: PHU managers, Medical Officers of Health,
CC: Stewart Beinner/MOH@MOH Stewart
Josephine/MOH@MOH
From: f OH,
bcc:

Subject: Consultation paper on proposed amendment to Medicines Regulations re fluoride in drinking water - submissions due 9 January 2015

Dear colleagues

Please forward to any colleagues who may be interested. Please encourage submissions from relevant staff (following appropriate DHB and public health unit protocols).

The Ministry of Health is seeking submissions, **by 9 January 2015**, on a proposed amendment to the regulations (Medicines Regulations 1894) made under the Medicines Act 1981. The proposed amendment would have the effect of providing legal clarity that the fluoride substances used to treat drinking water are not medicines.

The proposal is in response to a recent court case which found: *In the recent judgement the High Court dismissed the plaintiff's claim that HFA and SSF properly come within the definition of "medicine" and recommended use of regulation-making powers under the Act to exempt HFA and SSF from being medicines for the purposes of the Act. This would serve to provide greater clarity about the issue by removing any possible ambiguity and would also regularise the status quo as regards the use of HFA and SSF in water fluoridation.*

The consultation link is on the Medsafe website and is also being provided to local government, the New Zealand Dental Association and the New Zealand Medical Association:
<http://www.medsafe.govt.nz/consultations/medicine-regulations-fluoride-in-drinking-water.asp>

Kind regards - Janey

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