Kia ora koutou

**\*\*This email communication is intended to reach the CEO, CMO, DoNs, Incident Management Controllers and Supply Purchasers / logistics managers at your DHB. Whilst every effort has been taken to ensure this reaches the correct individuals, there may be recent changes in roles we are not aware of. Please can you ensure this is forwarded to on to anyone in these roles that have been missed. Thank you. \*\***

On 16 April 2021, the Ministry of Health was advised of a major supply chain issue for a range of consumables related to Sterile Wraps used broadly across New Zealand.

7 of the 8 consumable lines are currently sourced via EBOS group and Kimberly Clarke. The Ministry of Health understands these have been put on back-order by the supplier(s) and have been on manual allocation for a period of time. Of note, the Australian government has also signalled a supply shortage and has advised state hospitals to conserve the use of sterile wraps and seek alternate mechanisms and tools to retain sterilisation protocols.

The Ministry of Health can confirm the reason for this is due to a raw material shortage, manufacturing and production delays and logistics challenges as a direct result of the global pandemic. The concern is significant enough for the Ministry of Health to secure all related consumables and act on behalf of the country to ensure surgical services can be maintained, while alternate solutions can be identified.

The Ministry of Health has been advised that the supply chain disruption has the potential to impact on **all DHBs** across New Zealand.

Considering the above, the Ministry is now managing these consumables as a critical medical supply within the COVID-19 Health Supply Chain and will work with PHARMAC, New Zealand Health Partnerships Ltd (NZHPL) and Health Source to manage the supply issues and constraints with Sterile Wrap and work through alternatives in the event that supplies for these become unavailable in the very short term. We ask that you do not independently respond to sourcing your own sterile wraps.

In leading this issue, the Ministry will nationally manage supply and distribution of these consumables and alternatives through suppliers. We will monitor supply closely.  The Ministry will take the lead in communicating with you and providing updates. At this stage, any media queries should be directed to the Ministry of Health for response.

The consumables will remain within supply arrangements on agreement, but will be nationally monitored, approved and distributed by the Ministry of Health. On clinical advice, we will:

a. Confirm where the sterile wraps are being used

b. Identify what reserves may exist within New Zealand.

c. Take stock of what alternatives are already used across the system.

d. Determine potential available alternatives, and source them as required, ensuring the change is communicated.

To commence this process we urgently request that you address this shortage within your DHB through your IMT processes.

If you have any questions or concerns, please direct your questions to Dani Coplon through the following email address: [COVID.HealthSupplyChain@health.govt.nz](mailto:COVID.HealthSupplyChain@health.govt.nz)

Thank you for your commitment to addressing this at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Connolly                                                        Robyn Shearer

Acting Chief Medical Officer                                     Acting Director General of Health

Ministry of Health                                                       Ministry of Health

**COVID-19 Health Supply Chain**

COVID-19 Health System Response, Ministry of Health **l** [www.moh.govt.nz](https://urldefense.com/v3/__http:/www.moh.govt.nz/__;!!A3teau8g8Q!BJMxXsfyZIKGiib9Gega1g_xBMZw4l9pAeftuP8miNGWJWfqy_4t0QdrXJ1q9VFRCMP2OqCfrWc$)