



21 March 2012

Hon Tony Ryall  
Minister of Health  
6.3 Executive Wing  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6011

Dear Minister

Information received by New Zealand First reveals Pharmac's proposal to fund CareSens meters as the only form of glucose-testing equipment for diabetics has gone too far and needs to be revoked.

Diabetes field workers are concerned the elderly will not be able to cope with the change and will stop measuring their blood-sugar levels.

This could result in earlier death and more severe forms of diabetes which would negate the estimated \$10 million savings.

There have also been concerning reports that CareSens meters will not work in New Zealand's cold winter temperatures.

This situation puts up to 200,000 New Zealanders with diabetes in an alarming position.

Diabetics' health will be placed in serious jeopardy if this change goes ahead and the Government needs to ensure the Pharmac proposal does not proceed.

We would like you to confirm at the earliest possible date that this potential danger to thousands of diabetics has been abandoned.

Yours sincerely

**Barbara Stewart**  
New Zealand First Health Spokesperson

CC Chris Baty, President Diabetes NZ



**BARBARA STEWART MP**  
**NEW ZEALAND FIRST**  
Parliament Buildings, Wellington  
Telephone: (04) 817-8356 Facsimile: (04) 817-6491  
Email: [barbara.stewart@parliament.govt.nz](mailto:barbara.stewart@parliament.govt.nz)