

MeNZMedical

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Letter
MeNZ Medical

Date

12/01/2024

To Whom It May Concern

The following is a guide to facilitate baseline blood screening/health checks of career firefighters, trainers and fire investigators with the New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union.

1) Contact your GP Practice or other selected healthcare provider to arrange a 30 minute appointment with a Nurse and a 30 minute appointment immediately afterwards with a Doctor. Alternatively, if the healthcare provider has already arranged to provide a 'New Zealand Professional Firefighters Review'. This can be done as an individual or through the NZPFU Local representatives to organise a group scheme and process. Depending on the arrangements with the Union the GP may contact you first, typically via text message, requesting that you contact them to arrange review.

2) At the time of contacting the healthcare provider fasting blood tests are to be arranged to be completed at least three days prior to you being seen in clinic. As these blood tests are being completed for the purposes of investigation of potential health issues in a population at increased risk it is expected that the laboratory costs of such blood tests would be covered by the standard funding available to patients who are eligible for funded healthcare in New Zealand.

3) If there are any queries regarding the funding of laboratory costs hold off proceeding with the blood tests or the 'New Zealand Professional Firefighters Review' and contact your local Union Official. They will liaise with union staff and discuss how to proceed with your healthcare provider.

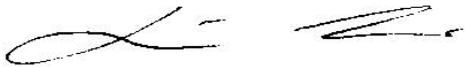
4) At the time of undergoing the 'New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union Medical Review' you will be supplied with a copy of their report and a copy will be sent to your enrolled GP if applicable.

6) The cost for the 'New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union Review' will be paid by you at the time of the consultation and you will be provided with a receipt for reimbursement from your employer. The funding available for reimbursement is \$250 once per year or \$500 once every two years, and most healthcare providers should be able to complete the 'New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union Medical Review' at or below this cost.

7) Depending on the cost of providing the 'New Zealand Professional Firefighters Union Review' your healthcare provider they will arrange to recall you for repeat review every one to two years.

Please contact your NZPFU Union Official if additional information is required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dr Lewis Ball', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Lewis Ball
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912 Colombo Street, Christchurch, 8013