

**Prescription of medication to partner  
(16HDC01138, 29 June 2017)**

*Doctor ~ Prescription ~ Psychoactive medication ~ Professional standards ~ Right 4(2)*

A doctor prescribed various medications including psychoactive medication to a woman with whom he was in a personal relationship. The doctor did not keep any record of the frequency and dosages prescribed. The woman had a medical history that included depression, anxiety, and difficulty sleeping.

It was held that by prescribing medication to his partner at the time, including psychoactive medication, and by failing to keep a record of the care provided to the woman or to provide information to her GP regarding the prescriptions, that the doctor failed to provide services that complied with professional standards, and accordingly it was found that he breached Right 4(2).

It was recommended that the Medical Council of New Zealand consider whether a review of the doctor's competence was warranted, and report back to HDC on the outcome of that review.