



29 July 2026

Tēnā koe

Pause on use of surgical mesh for stress urinary incontinence – Update for the Health Sector

In August 2026, it will be three years since the pause on the use of surgical mesh for stress urinary incontinence procedures was introduced. The pause remains time-limited, but it also remains in place.

The pause will not be lifted automatically, and there is no confirmed timeframe for any recommendation or decision about lifting it. Before the pause can be reconsidered, the four agreed safety conditions must be in place and operating effectively:

- mandatory credentialling of clinicians undertaking these procedures
- structured informed consent supported by patient decision aids
- multidisciplinary review of cases
- a national pelvic floor procedure registry

If and when all four conditions have been met, the Surgical Mesh Roundtable (SMRT) ([Surgical Mesh Roundtable](#)) will consider whether there is sufficient confidence that the necessary systems, safeguards, and oversight arrangements are in place to support the safe reintroduction of these procedures. Any recommendation from the SMRT would then be provided to the Director-General of Health for consideration.

The Ministry of Health remains committed to a careful, evidence-informed, and patient-centred approach. In considering any future advice, the SMRT will take account of whether the agreed safety mechanisms are functioning as intended, feedback from consumers and clinicians, system readiness, and residual risk.

In the meantime, clinicians should continue to assess, advise, and manage patients on the basis that the pause remains in force. Patients should be counselled using currently available treatment options, rather than expectations about a future change to the pause. Clinicians should not advise patients that mesh procedures are expected to become available again within any particular timeframe.

Further updates on surgical mesh will be published on the Ministry of Health website and can be accessed through the surgical mesh update page ([Hearing and Responding to the Stories of Survivors of Surgical Mesh: April 2026 update | Ministry of Health NZ](#)).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Joe Bourne', with a stylized, flowing script.

Dr Joe Bourne
Chief Medical Officer
Ministry of Health
Chair, Surgical Mesh Roundtable