



Get on with life,  
we'll see you  
in 6 months.

**OCREVUS<sup>®</sup>**  
ocrelizumab



*Living your life your way with MS*



If you're one of the  
4000 New Zealanders  
affected by MS,  
ask your doctor or  
nurse if OCREVUS  
is right for you.

[getonwithlife.co.nz](http://getonwithlife.co.nz)

# C ontents

What is Multiple Sclerosis (MS)? 2

What are the symptoms of MS? 5

What is OCREVUS and how does it work? 9

Who is OCREVUS for?  
- Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (RRMS) 13

Who is OCREVUS for?  
- Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (PPMS) 15

How is OCREVUS given? 19

Important information on OCREVUS 21

Contact details and next appointment 24

Glossary 25

All words underlined like this are explained in the glossary at the back of this booklet on page 25

Models have been used within this communication piece for illustration purposes only.

A person wearing dark, functional outdoor pants and black boots is walking on a wooden path through a lush green forest. The person's legs and feet are the central focus, with one foot stepping onto a wooden plank. The background is filled with vibrant green ferns and tall grasses, creating a sense of being in nature. The overall mood is one of active living and outdoor recreation.

Get on with life,  
we'll see you  
in 6 months.

What is Multiple Sclerosis?

## What is Multiple Sclerosis?

Multiple sclerosis (MS) is a disease that affects the central nervous system (CNS).

The CNS contains neurons, which send signals to the body so we can talk, eat, move and generally perform our day-to-day activities. Neurons are wrapped in a protein called myelin, which usually keeps them protected and insulated.

When a person has MS, the immune system mistakenly attacks their myelin. This causes inflammation and damage to the nerve cells, and stops the nervous system from working properly.

Because the CNS controls vital physical functions – such as balance, memory and coordination – this results in the symptoms of MS.

A photograph of a residential street at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a warm, golden glow that illuminates the scene. The street is paved and leads towards several houses in the background. The overall mood is peaceful and nostalgic.

Get on with life,

we'll see you

in 6 months.



What are the symptoms of MS?

## What are the symptoms of MS?

MS symptoms vary from person to person. Some people may show signs and symptoms of the disease, while other people with MS show none.

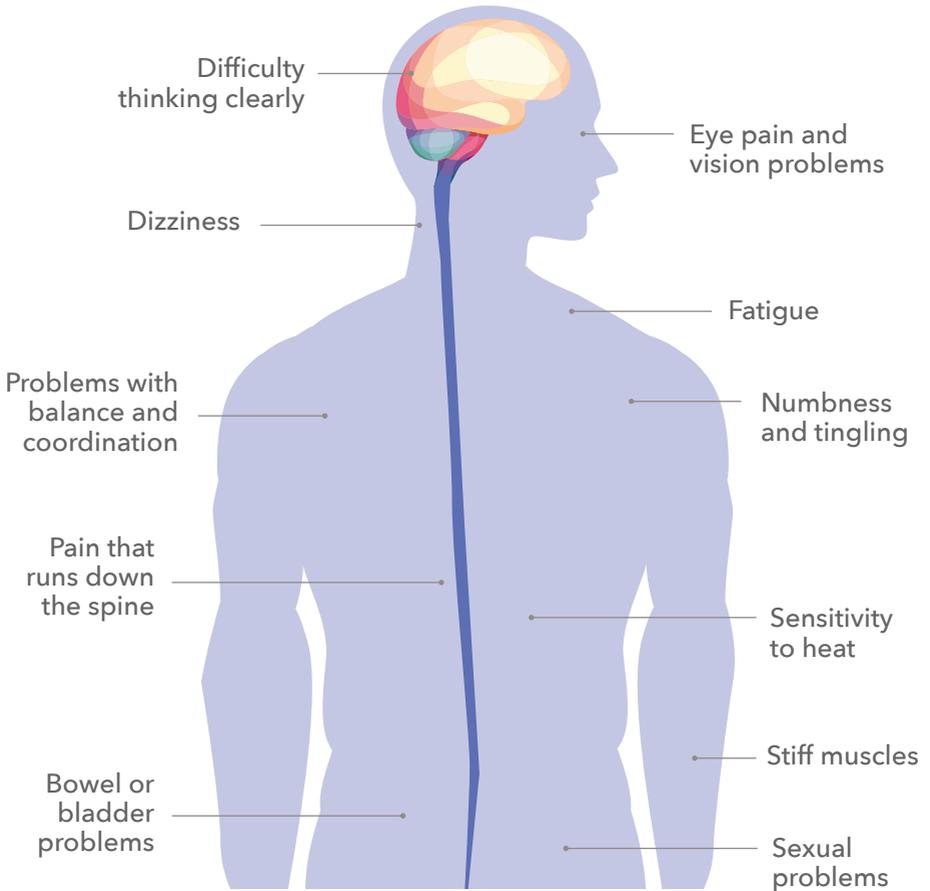
Since MS can affect any area of the brain, optic nerve or spinal cord, a wide range of symptoms can arise. Magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) is useful in detecting damage in these areas, and can help identify MS even in the absence of symptoms.



**Know that  
over time ...**

... technology and the growing knowledge of MS can lead to promising new treatments that can potentially prevent symptoms of MS.

# Potential symptoms to look out for





Get on with life,  
we'll see you  
in 6 months.



What is OCREVUS?

# What is OCREVUS?

OCREVUS is a prescription medication that works by targeting certain cells in the immune system.

By removing these cells, OCREVUS may reduce inflammation and damage within the nervous system caused by MS.

This lowers the chance of a relapse, and slows the worsening of the disease.

OCREVUS received PHARMAC funding in December 2019 for people with RMS.\*

Globally there are now over 6 years of data (clinical trials and post-trial data) and over 160,000 people with MS who have started treatment with OCREVUS.

## **Neuron**

The basic nerve cell of the nervous system.

## **B-Cell**

A type of lymphocyte (white blood cell) made in the bone marrow that makes antibodies.

## **Antibody**

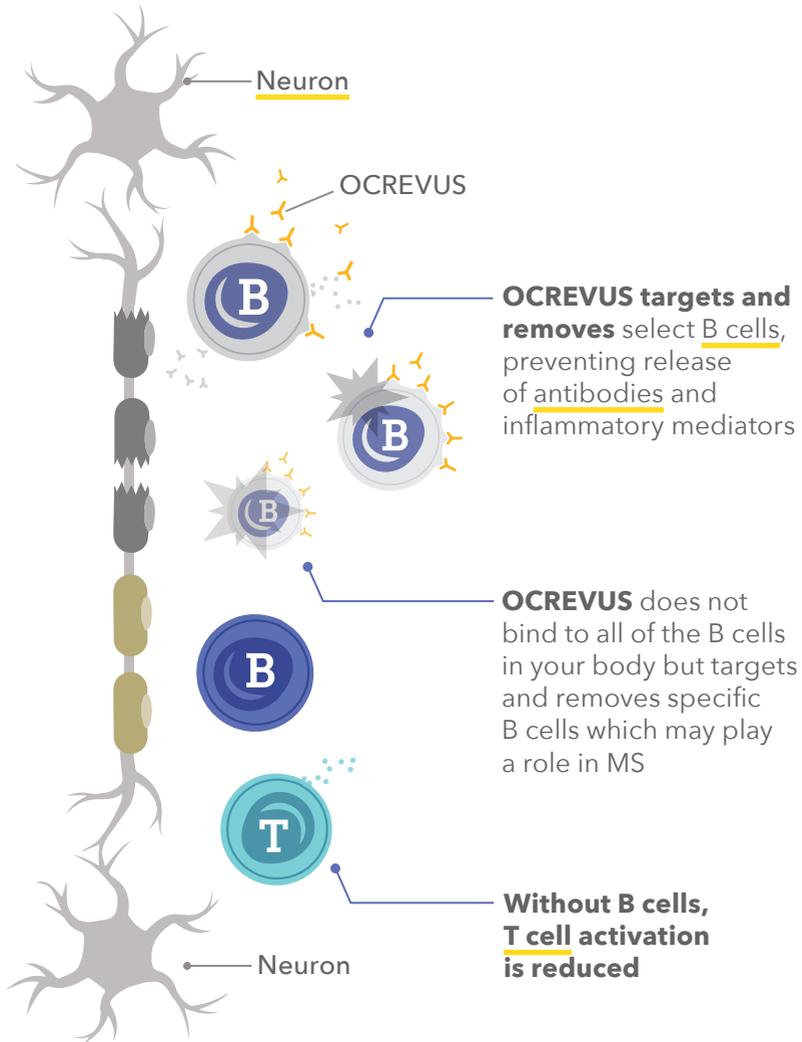
A protein produced by certain cells of the immune system. It is produced in response to bacteria, viruses, and other types of foreign antigens.

## **T-Cell**

A lymphocyte (white blood cell) that develops in the bone marrow, matures in the thymus, and works as part of the immune system in the body.

\*Funded by PHARMAC from 1 December 2019 for people with RMS who meet pre-defined criteria.

# How does OCREVUS work?





Get on with life,  
we'll see you  
in 6 months.



Who is OCREVUS for?

## Who is OCREVUS for?

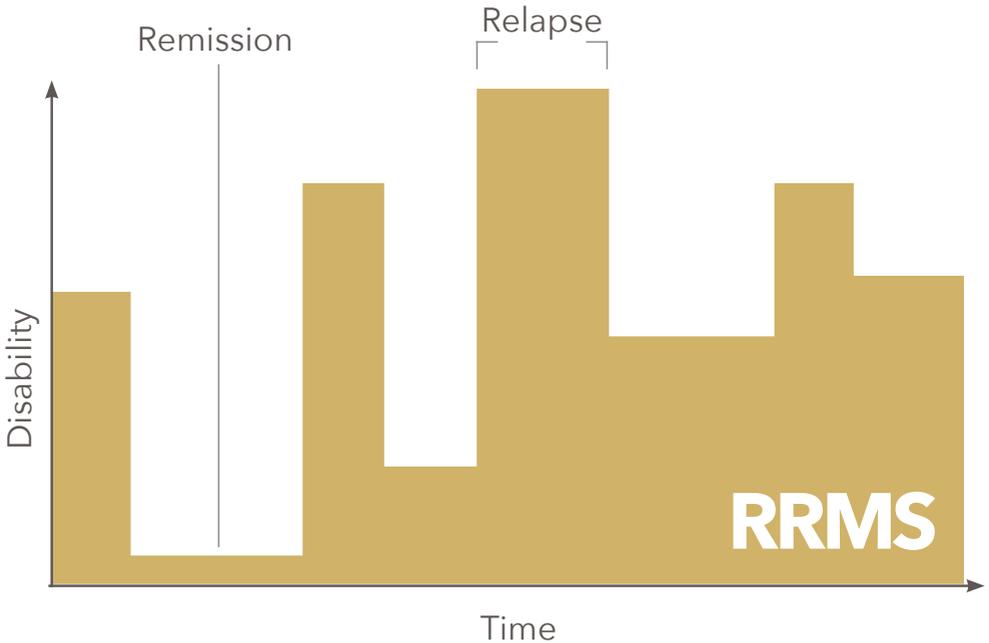
### OCREVUS helps with signs and symptoms of Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (RRMS)

#### Relapses

When a relapse occurs, symptoms may be experienced suddenly, within a few hours, or slowly develop over a few days. As MS progresses, the damage caused by relapses may grow and could lead to permanent disability.

#### Remission

In people with RRMS there are periods of full recovery (in which symptoms disappear completely) or partial recovery (in which some symptoms remain).



OCREVUS decreases the number of relapses, and slows the worsening of RRMS compared to beta-interferon (another medication for MS).

OCREVUS only needs to be given every six months after the first dose, leaving you to get on with life in between treatments

OCREVUS has shown promising results so far in reducing the frequency of MS relapses, and slowing the overall progression of the disease.

**Compared with beta-interferon,  
OCREVUS helps to:**

**Reduce the number of relapses**  
by about half



**Suppress progression** and reduce the likelihood of worsening of disability by 40%  
Increases the chance of a patient having **no evidence of disease** activity by 75%

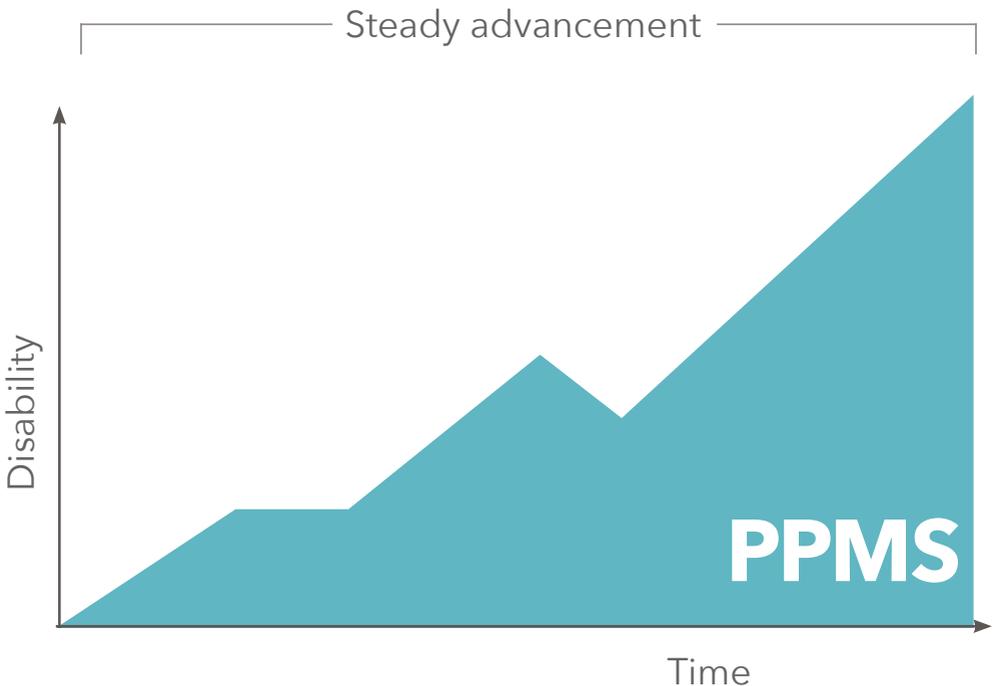
If you would like more information regarding the use of OCREVUS for the treatment of MS then please contact the Roche Medical Information team on **0800 276243** or **auckland.medinfonz@roche.com**

## Who is OCREVUS for?

### OCREVUS helps with signs and symptoms of Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (PPMS)

#### PPMS advances more steadily than RRMS

Symptoms of PPMS continually get worse from the start of the disease. However, while not typical, some people with PPMS may occasionally experience relapses.



OCREVUS slows the worsening of PPMS.

OCREVUS only needs to be given every six months after the first dose, leaving you to get on with life in between treatments

OCREVUS has shown promising results so far in slowing the overall progression of the disease.

Compared with placebo,  
OCREVUS helps to:

**Reduce the progression of disability** by about one quarter



**Slow down progression** of the disease and reduce deterioration in walking speed

If you would like more information regarding the use of OCREVUS for the treatment of MS then please contact the Roche Medical Information team on **0800 276243** or **auckland.medinfonz@roche.com**

A close-up photograph of a fishing rod with a cork handle and a fly fishing lure on a smartphone screen, resting on a dark, textured rock. The text is overlaid on the image.

Get on with life,  
we'll see you  
in 6 months.



How is OCREVUS given?

## How is OCREVUS given?

OCREVUS is administered by intravenous (IV) infusion every six months.

Before you receive OCREVUS, you will also be given other medicines to help reduce the severity of possible infusion-related reactions (IRR).

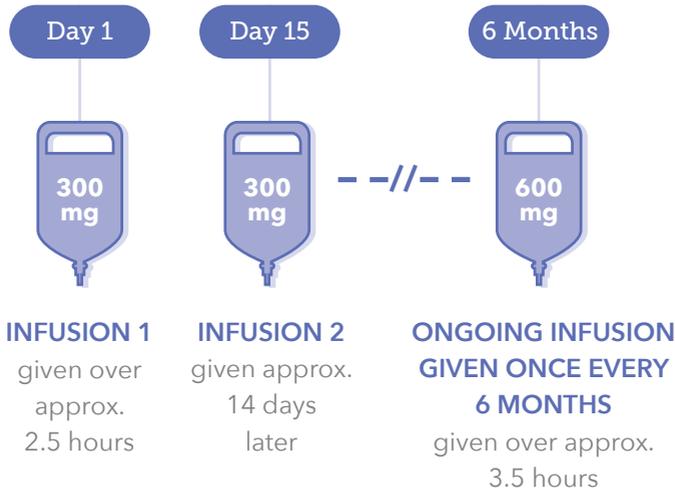
You'll need to visit the hospital to receive OCREVUS, and it will be given to you intravenously (through a needle in your arm).

You'll be closely monitored during each infusion, and your doctor or nurse may adjust the infusion rate depending on how well your body is tolerating it.



# You will receive OCREVUS every 6 months

- The first dose of OCREVUS is given as two separate infusions.
  - **Day 1: 300mg**
  - **Day 15: 300mg**



- After the first dose, OCREVUS is given every 6 months. This is the dosing that has been determined to be both effective and well tolerated in clinical trials.



## Important information on OCREVUS

There are some side effects and risks to be aware of when taking OCREVUS. Your doctor will consider the best time for you to begin treatment with OCREVUS.

### **Do not use OCREVUS if:**

- You have had an allergic reaction to OCREVUS or any of its ingredients.

Before you receive OCREVUS, tell your doctor if:

- You have an infection, or a history of recurring or long-term infection (such as hepatitis B).
  - If you are taking or have taken medicines which affect your immune system, you may have an increased risk of infections.
- You are taking, or have previously taken, medicines which may affect your immune system (such as other medicines for MS).
- You are taking any medicine for high blood pressure.
- You have had, or intend to have, any immunisation with a vaccine.
- You or your child have been exposed to Ocrevus during pregnancy
- You are allergic to any other medicines or any other substances such as foods, preservatives or dyes.
- You are pregnant, or intend to become pregnant.
- You are breastfeeding, or plan to breastfeed.

### Possible side effects:

The most common side effects of OCREVUS are infusion-related reactions (IRR). Infusion reactions can be serious, so you'll be carefully monitored throughout your infusion and for at least one hour afterwards.

However, because IRRs can happen for up to 24 hours after a dose of OCREVUS, it is important that you tell your doctor or go to the Accident and Emergency at your nearest hospital if you notice any of the following:

- swelling of your face, lips, tongue or throat
- swelling of other parts of your body
- shortness of breath, wheezing, or other breathing difficulties
- itching, hives or a rash on your skin
- nausea
- a fever or chills
- tiredness
- headaches
- chest pain
- an abnormal or irregular heartbeat.

OCREVUS increases your risk of getting upper respiratory and lower respiratory tract infections, skin infections, and herpes infections. Tell your healthcare provider if you have an infection or have any of the following signs of infection including fever, chills, a cough that does not go away, or signs of herpes (such as cold sores, shingles, or genital sores).

There have also been reports of a rare, serious brain infection called PML (progressive multifocal leucoencephalopathy) in patients receiving medicines for MS. There were no cases of PML with OCREVUS in clinical trials and no cases since then where doctors think OCREVUS caused it. It is possible that we might see cases in the future as more people are treated with OCREVUS.

PML can cause severe disability or even death, and the symptoms can be similar to those of MS.

Tell your partner or carer about your OCREVUS treatment, and encourage them to be alert to changes in your movement or behaviour. If you or they notice any symptoms, your doctor may need to investigate.



What if I miss a dose?

- Make another appointment as soon as possible to receive your infusion.
- Do not wait until the next planned dose.

# Your appointments

## **INFUSION**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **INFUSION**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## **INFUSION**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Notes \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Nurses name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact number** \_\_\_\_\_

**Infusion location** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# Glossary

## **Antibody**

A protein produced by certain cells of the immune system. It is produced in response to bacteria, viruses, and other types of foreign antigens.

## **B-Cell**

A type of lymphocyte (white blood cell) made in the bone marrow that makes antibodies.

## **Beta-interferon**

Is an anti-inflammatory medication that acts to reduce the inflammation and the immune response from attacking the body's own myelin.

## **Central Nervous System (CNS)**

The part of the nervous system that includes the brain, optic (visual) nerves, and spinal cord.

## **Immune system**

A complex network of glands, tissues, circulating cells, and processes that protect the body by identifying abnormal or foreign substances and neutralising them.

## **Infusion-Related Reactions (IRR)**

Some possible symptoms are itchiness, rash, throat irritation, flushing, and headache.

## **Intravenous (IV) infusion**

A method used to deliver some types of medication and it involves inserting the medication into the vein via a drip.

## **Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI)**

A tool that uses magnetic energy and radio waves to take pictures of the inside of your body, including areas like your brain or spine.

## **Myelin**

The protective coating that insulates nerves allowing nerve signals to travel quickly.

## **Neuron**

The basic nerve cell of the nervous system.

**Placebo**

A substance with no active therapeutic effect.

**PML**

Progressive Multifocal Leukoencephalopathy is a rare and serious brain infection.

**Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis (PPMS)**

Primary progressive multiple sclerosis is a less common form of multiple sclerosis. People with PPMS usually have progressive worsening of neurologic function or accumulation of disability from the start.

**Relapsing-Remitting Multiple Sclerosis (RRMS)**

The most common form of multiple sclerosis where there are clear attacks of new or worsening symptoms, also known as relapses. These relapses are followed by periods of partial or complete recovery, called remission.

**T-Cell**

A lymphocyte (white blood cell) that develops in the bone marrow, matures in the thymus, and works as part of the immune system in the body.

Notes

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

For more information  
[getonwithlife.co.nz](http://getonwithlife.co.nz)





Ocrevus® (ocrelizumab), 300mg vial, is a **Prescription Medicine** used to treat relapsing forms of multiple sclerosis (RMS) and primary progressive multiple sclerosis (PPMS). **Do not use Ocrevus if:** you have had an allergic reaction to Ocrevus or any of the ingredients. **Tell your doctor if:** you have an infection, or a history of a recurring or long-term infection such as hepatitis B; you are taking or have previously taken medicines which may affect your immune system, such as other medicines for MS; you or your child if they were exposed to Ocrevus during pregnancy, intend to have or have had immunisation with any vaccine; you are allergic to any other medicines or any other substances such as foods, preservatives or dyes; you are pregnant or intend to become pregnant; you are breast feeding or plan to breast feed. **Tell your doctor immediately or go to your nearest Accident and Emergency Centre if you notice any of the following;** swelling of your face, lips, tongue or throat with difficulty breathing; swelling of other parts of your body; shortness of breath, wheezing or trouble breathing; skin problems including rash, itchiness or hives; fever, flushing or chills; cough, throat irritation or pain; feeling tired; headache; dizziness or light headedness; feeling sick (nausea); fast heartbeat. **Tell your doctor, nurse or pharmacist if you notice any of the following common side effects:** signs of an infection such as fever or chills, cold sore, shingles or genital sores; stuffy nose or chest; thick mucus in the nose, throat or chest; persistent cough; difficulty sleeping (insomnia); diarrhoea, vomiting and/or stomach cramps (gastroenteritis); skin infections, sinus infections. **Ocrevus** has risks and benefits. Ask your doctor if Ocrevus is right for you. Use strictly as directed. If symptoms continue or you have side effects, see your healthcare professional. For further information on Ocrevus, please talk to your health professional or visit [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz) for Ocrevus Consumer Medicine Information.

**Ocrevus is a PHARMAC funded medicine from 1st December 2019 for patients with relapsing multiple sclerosis (RMS) who meet pre-defined criteria. Patients outside these criteria and with primary progressive multiple sclerosis (PPMS) will need to pay the full cost of this medicine. A prescription charge and normal doctor's fees may apply.**

Consumer Panel Version 3. Roche Products (New Zealand) Limited, Auckland.  
Phone: 0800 656 464. [www.roche.co.nz](http://www.roche.co.nz).  
All trademarks mentioned herein are protected by law.





Roche Products (New Zealand) Limited  
PO Box 109113, Newmarket, Auckland 1149  
Ph: 0800 656 464 [www.roche.co.nz](http://www.roche.co.nz)

M-NZ-00000172/NA12156/DEC2020  
ROC00476

