

1 December 2003

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To All Interested Parties

By facsimile (2 pages)

**Janssen-Cilag proposal regarding tacrolimus
(Prograf)**

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PHARMAC has signed a provisional agreement with Janssen-Cilag Pty Limited involving the widened access to tacrolimus (Prograf). The main features of this proposal are outlined further in this letter.

The PHARMAC Board (or Chief Executive under delegated authority pursuant to section 61 of the New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000) will consider the proposal following completion of a consultation period. If you have comments to make on this proposal and would like those comments to be considered by the PHARMAC Board (or Chief Executive) then please send them to PHARMAC by **5 p.m. on Friday, 19 December 2003**.

PHARMAC proposes to:

1. list tacrolimus (Prograf) 0.5 mg capsules in Section B and Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at a price and subsidy of \$227.00 per pack of 100 capsules (price and subsidy are ex-manufacturer, exclusive of GST).
2. reduce the price and subsidy of tacrolimus (Prograf) 1 mg and 5 mg capsules in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule to \$454.00 per pack of 100 1 mg capsules, and \$1,135.00 per pack of 50 5 mg capsules (prices and subsidies are ex-manufacturer, exclusive of GST).
3. list tacrolimus (Prograf) 1 mg and 5 mg capsules in Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at a price of \$454.00 per pack of 100 1 mg capsules, and \$1,135.00 per pack of 50 5 mg capsules (prices and subsidies are ex-manufacturer, exclusive of GST).
4. reduce the price and subsidy of tacrolimus (Prograf) 0.5 mg, 1 mg and 5 mg capsules in Section B and Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule to \$214.00 per pack of 100 0.5 mg capsules, \$428.00 per pack of 100 1 mg capsules and \$1,070.00 per pack of 50 5 mg capsules (prices and subsidies are ex-manufacturer, exclusive of GST), from 1 February 2005.
5. amend the current Special Authority criteria for the prescribing and dispensing of tacrolimus, as follows:

Current criteria	Proposed criteria from 1 February 2004
Special Authority – Hospital Pharmacy [HP3] a) Liver transplant recipients b) Renal transplant recipients – as rescue therapy only c) Specialists must make application d) Approvals are valid indefinitely	Special Authority – Hospital Pharmacy [HP3] a) Organ transplant recipients b) Specialists must make application c) Approvals are valid indefinitely

6. provide protection from further subsidy decreases on all strengths of tacrolimus (Prograf) until 1 February 2007.

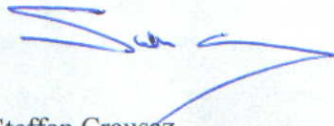
Section H

Under this proposal, tacrolimus (Prograf) would be listed in Part II of Section H, but not with Hospital Supply Status. Therefore, DHB Hospitals would be free to purchase tacrolimus if they chose, but there would be no requirement or DV Limits.

If you wish to make comments on this proposal, please forward them to Steffan Crausaz at PHARMAC by **5 p.m. on Friday, 19 December 2003**. The earliest date for implementation of this proposal would be 1 February 2004.

A copy of this letter can be found on PHARMAC's website at www.pharmac.govt.nz/consultation.asp.

Yours sincerely



Steffan Crausaz
Therapeutic Group Manager