

23 December 2003

To All Interested Parties**CONSULTATION ON THE ASTRAZENECA LIMITED PROPOSAL REGARDING BETALOC CR, BRICANYL, PULMICORT, AND OXIS 6µg**

PHARMAC and AstraZeneca Limited have entered into a provisional agreement relating to the supply of Bricanyl 250µg Turbuhaler, Oxis 6µg Turbuhaler, Pulmicort 100µg, 200µg and 400µg Turbuhalers and Betaloc CR 23.75mg, 47.5mg, 95mg, and 190mg tablets. The main features of this proposal are outlined further in this letter.

The PHARMAC Board will consider this proposal at its January 2004 meeting. If you have comments to make on this proposal and would like those comments to be considered by the PHARMAC Board then please send them to PHARMAC by **5 p.m. on Friday, 16 January 2004**. The PHARMAC Board will consider all comments submitted by this date.

The main features of this proposal are as follows:

- The prices and subsidies for the products outlined in the table below would be amended with effect from 1 July 2004.

Chemical	Brand	Presentation	Strength	Pack Size	Current Price & Subsidy	Price & Subsidy from 1 July 2004
Terbutaline sulphate	Bricanyl Turbuhaler	Breath Activated Device	250µg per dose	200 dose OP	\$13.54	\$18.20
Budesonide	Pulmicort Turbuhaler	Breath Activated Device	100µg per dose	200 dose OP	\$13.00	\$17.00
Budesonide	Pulmicort Turbuhaler	Breath Activated Device	200µg per dose	200 dose OP	\$22.50	\$19.00
Budesonide	Pulmicort Turbuhaler	Breath Activated Device	400µg per dose	200 dose OP	\$38.55	\$32.00
Metoprolol tartrate	Betaloc CR	Tablet, long-acting	23.75mg	30	\$3.61	\$5.20
Metoprolol tartrate	Betaloc CR	Tablet, long-acting	47.5mg	30	\$4.50	\$6.50
Metoprolol tartrate	Betaloc CR	Tablet, long-acting	95mg	30	\$7.40	\$11.20
Metoprolol tartrate	Betaloc CR	Tablet, long-acting	190mg	30	\$12.50	\$20.25

- PHARMAC would not delist or reduce the subsidy payable for any of these products prior to 1 July 2007.
- The endorsement criteria for Oxis 6µg would be amended with effect from 1 March 2004 as set out below (changes in strikethrough):

Prescription Endorsement Criteria for Oxis 6µg Turbuhaler

Subsidy is available for patients with poorly controlled asthma where:

- a) at least three months of 750 mcg or more daily of inhaled beclomethasone or budesonide (or 400 mcg or fluticasone) for adults has been used; or
- b) at least three months of 400 mcg or more daily inhaled beclomethasone or budesonide (or 200 mcg or fluticasone) for children ~~12 years or older~~ has been used;

The prescription must be endorsed accordingly. We recommend that the words used to indicate eligibility are "poor control with ICS" or "certified exemption".

If you wish to make comments on this proposal, please forward them to Natalie Ganley at PHARMAC by **5 p.m. on Friday, 16 January 2004.**

Yours sincerely



Wayne McNee
Chief Executive