

23 December 2003

To: All Pharmacists, Pharmaceutical Suppliers, Medical Groups and Interested Parties**CONSULTATION ON TWO CHANGES TO THE DISPENSING FREQUENCY OF MEDICINES**

This consultation letter relates to possible amendments to the stat dispensing category with effect for 1 April 2004 only. Consultation on the first annual review of the stat process will happen at a later date in 2004.

Proposal One

This proposal would result in a change to one dispensing for all products listed in the Contraceptives Non-hormonal and Contraceptives Hormonal therapeutic subgroups of the Pharmaceutical Schedule. Under this proposal the products listed in these therapeutic subgroups of the Pharmaceutical Schedule would have to be dispensed in one lot, i.e. up to 180 days supply at one time. Attached is the full list of medicines that would be affected by this proposal. Note that some of these chemicals are also listed in the Hormone Preparations Therapeutic Group, and therefore these would also return to one dispensing.

The proposal to add all contraceptives to the all-at-once dispensing list would allow DHBs to invest in additional health services, including new medicines and additional primary health care services.

Proposal Two

PHARMAC has also considered returning asthma medicines to one dispensing, but proposes not to progress this at this time. This is due to these products falling into the expensive medicine category and appearing to have relatively poor repeat collection rates. However, these products would be able to be dispensed in one lot if the prescriber endorses the prescription accordingly. The current rules around "Access Exemption" criteria would remain in place for these pharmaceuticals.

Deadline for Responses

PHARMAC will be consulting on these proposals from 23 December 2003 to 31 January 2004. Copies of the consultation letter, which includes the full list of medicines, are available from PHARMAC, www.pharmac.govt.nz, or by phoning 0800 66 00 50. If the PHARMAC Board approves the proposal, it would be implemented on 1 April 2004.

Feedback should be addressed to Wayne McNee, Chief Executive, PHARMAC at PO Box 10-254, Wellington, or by facsimile (04) 460 4995 by **5pm, Friday 31 January 2004**.

Yours sincerely

Wayne McNee
Chief Executive

Proposed List of Pharmaceuticals that would be included on the stat dispensing list.

Note: All presentations listed on the Pharmaceutical Schedule for each of these pharmaceuticals would be required to be dispensed stat.

The following list is alphabetical.

Genito-Urinary System

Applicator
Condoms Extra Strength
Condoms Without Spermicide
Cyproterone Acetate With Ethinylloestradiol
Diaphragm
Di-isobutylphenoxypolyethoxy-ethanol
Ethinylloestradiol with Desogestrel
Ethinylloestradiol with Gestodene
Ethinylloestradiol with Levonorgestrel
Ethinylloestradiol with Norethisterone
Ethinodiol Diacetate
Intra-Uterine Device
Levonorgestrel*
Medroxyprogesterone Acetate*
Norethisterone*
Norethisterone with Mestranol

*Listed in both Genito-Urinary System and Hormone Preparations - Systemic Therapeutic Groups.