

30 July 2004

Level 14, Cigna House,
40 Mercer Street, PO Box 10-254
Wellington 6001, New Zealand
Phone 64 4 460 4990
Fax 64 4 460 4995
www.pharmac.govt.nz

To All Pharmaceutical Suppliers, Medical Groups and Interested Parties*By facsimile (2 pages)***CONSULTATION ON THE PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING CRITERIA FOR TROPISETRON (NAVOBAN) AND ONDANSETRON (ZOFTRAN AND ZOFTRAN ZYDIS) AND REFERENCE PRICE ONDANSETRON**

PHARMAC is proposing to widen access to tropisetron (Navoban) 5mg per capsule with effect from 1 October 2004, by amending the restriction on its use to allow for two dispensings of 3 tablets per month. The proposed amendment to the restriction for tropisetron is shown below (changes in bold and strikethrough):

Hospital pharmacy [HP3]-specialist

- a) Maximum of ~~3 capsules~~ **2 dispensings** per prescription; and
- b) **Maximum of 3 capsules per dispensing;**
- c) Not more than one prescription per month.

It is also proposed to reference price ondansetron (Zofran and Zofran Zydis) to tropisetron from 1 July 2005 as follows:

Chemical - brand	Presentation	Units per pack	Current price and subsidy	Proposed subsidy
Ondansetron - Zofran	Tab 4 mg	10	\$86.00	\$38.71
Ondansetron - Zofran Zydis	Tab disp 4 mg	10	\$86.00	\$38.71
Ondansetron - Zofran	Tab 8 mg	20	\$247.60	\$154.82
Ondansetron - Zofran Zydis	Tab disp 8 mg	10	\$123.80	\$77.41
Tropisetron - Novaban	Tab 5 mg	5	\$77.41	\$77.41

Prices and subsidies are ex manufacturer, ex GST.

If the supplier of ondansetron does not reduce its price to the new subsidy, it is proposed that children under the age of 12 be exempt from the reference pricing so that they can continue to receive a full subsidy. The proposed amendment to the restrictions for ondansetron is shown below (changes in bold):

Hospital pharmacy [HP3] – specialist – **Additional subsidy by endorsement**

- a) Not to exceed 6 tablets per prescription; and
- b) No more than one prescription per month.
- c) **Additional subsidy for children under 12 years of age.**

If you wish to make comments on this proposal for the PHARMAC Board or Chief Executive to consider, please forward them to Steffan Crausaz at PHARMAC by **4:00pm, Friday 13 August 2004**.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Wayne McNee', written in a cursive style.

Wayne McNee
Chief Executive