

26 August 2004

To All Interested Parties

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By facsimile (1 page)

Consultation in relation to extemporaneously compounded omeprazole/sodium bicarbonate suspensions

PHARMAC has received queries from pharmacists seeking clarification on the preparation of omeprazole suspensions. After reviewing the existing Pharmaceutical Schedule rules, PHARMAC is considering making omeprazole suspensions eligible for subsidy subject to certain guidelines, as described below.

The key points of PHARMAC's proposal are:

1. The listing of sodium bicarbonate powder (supplied by Multichem NZ Limited under the brand name David Craig sodium bicarbonate powder BP) in Section C of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at a price and subsidy of \$17.50 (ex manufacturer, exclusive of GST) per 500 g under an "Only in extemporaneously compounded omeprazole suspension" restriction;
2. The listing of omeprazole suspension in the Alimentary Tract and Metabolism therapeutic group in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule under an "Only for children under 12 years of age" restriction;
3. The addition of a "Not in combination" restriction to sodium bicarbonate inj 8.4% listed in the Blood and Blood Forming Organs therapeutic group in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule; and
4. The listing of the formula for omeprazole suspension in Section C of the Pharmaceutical Schedule as follows:

Omeprazole capsules	qs
in:	
Sodium bicarbonate powder	8.4 g
Water	to 100 ml

If you have comments to make on this proposal and would like those comments to be considered by the Chief Executive under Delegated Authority, please send them to Carolyn Macal tao (Therapeutic Group Manager Intern) at PHARMAC by **5 p.m. on Thursday, 9 September 2004**. Should the proposal be accepted, the proposed listing date would be 1 October 2004.

Yours sincerely



Wayne McNee
Chief Executive