

23 September 2004

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To: All Pharmaceutical Suppliers, Medical Groups and Interested Parties

Bulk Supply Order Review

PHARMAC has been reviewing the Bulk Supply Order (BSO). The BSO allows for eligible institutions to order bulk supplies of subsidised medicines for their use. Any item which is not restricted on the Pharmaceutical Schedule may be claimed via a BSO. Class B controlled drugs and buprenorphine hydrochloride may be ordered on a Special Bulk Supply Order Controlled Drug Form.

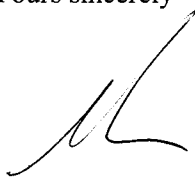
PHARMAC is proposing to remove the BSO provision; this would mean that patients residing in such institutions would continue to receive subsidised pharmaceuticals through doctors writing a prescription for named patients. Reimbursement for subsidised pharmaceuticals would be through the standard community claiming system. If this proposal were approved, PHARMAC would remove the BSO rules and definitions from Section A Part IV and all other references to BSOs in the Pharmaceutical Schedule.

The Practitioners Supply Order (PSO) provision would remain available, and would be unaffected by this proposal.

We seek your comments on how the removal of the BSO provision would affect your organization.

PHARMAC's Board will consider this proposal in November 2004. If you have comments to make on this review and would like those comments to be considered then please send them to Sophie Dalziel at PHARMAC **by 5 p.m. on Friday 22 October 2004**. PHARMAC's Board will consider all comments submitted by this date.

Yours sincerely



Wayne McNee
Chief Executive