

17 November 2004

To All Interested Parties

*By facsimile (1 page)***PROPOSAL FOR THE LISTING OF BIOMED LIMITED'S SODIUM BICARBONATE POWDER AND REFERENCE PRICING OF SODIUM BICARBONATE POWDER BP**

PHARMAC and Biomed Limited have entered into a provisional agreement relating to the listing of Biomed's brand of sodium bicarbonate powder in Section C of the Pharmaceutical Schedule. This provisional agreement is subject to consultation and PHARMAC Board (or Chief Executive under delegated authority) approval.

The main features of this proposal are as follows:

1. PHARMAC would list the Biomed brand of sodium bicarbonate powder BP in Section C of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at a price and subsidy of \$11.99 (ex manufacturer, exclusive of GST) per 500 g from 1 January 2005, under an "Only in extemporaneously compounded omeprazole suspension" restriction; and
2. PHARMAC would reference price all other brands of sodium bicarbonate powder BP listed on the Pharmaceutical Schedule, with effect from 1 January 2005 as follows:

Chemical and presentation	Brand	Pack size	Current subsidy	Proposed subsidy
Sodium bicarbonate, Powder BP	David Craig	500 g	\$17.50	\$11.99

If you have comments to make on this proposal and would like those comments to be considered by PHARMAC's Board (or Chief Executive under delegated authority), please send them to Carolyn Macal tao (Therapeutic Group Manager Intern) at PHARMAC by **5 p.m. on Thursday, 2 December 2004**.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Macal tao
Therapeutic Group Manager Intern