

20 December 2004

**To All Interested Parties**

*By facsimile (2 pages)*

**Proposal regarding insulin syringes and insulin pen needles on the Pharmaceutical Schedule**

PHARMAC issued a Request for Proposals for the supply of insulin syringes and insulin pen needles in September 2004. Further to the RFP, PHARMAC has entered into provisional agreements with Becton Dickinson and Novo Nordisk regarding the listing of insulin syringes and insulin pen needles on the Pharmaceutical Schedule. The main features of this proposal are as follows:

- The price and subsidy for insulin syringes currently listed in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule would be reduced from 1 March 2005 as follows:

Chemical	Brand	Pack size	Current price and subsidy	Proposed price and subsidy
0.3 ml with 29 g x 12.7 mm needle	B-D Ultra Fine	100	\$19.90	\$15.92
0.3 ml with 30 g x 8 mm needle	B-D Ultra Fine	100	\$19.90	\$15.92
0.5 ml with 29 g x 12.7 mm needle	B-D Ultra Fine	100	\$19.90	\$15.92
0.5 ml with 30 g x 8 mm needle	B-D Ultra Fine	100	\$19.90	\$15.92
1 ml with 29 g x 12.7 mm needle	B-D Ultra Fine	100	\$19.90	\$15.92
1 ml with 30 g x 8 mm needle	B-D Ultra Fine	100	\$19.90	\$15.92

Note: prices and subsidies are ex-manufacturer, exclusive of GST.

- The price and subsidy for insulin pen needles currently listed in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule would be reduced from 1 March 2005 as follows:

Chemical	Brand	Pack size	Current price and subsidy	Proposed price and subsidy
29 g x 12.7 mm needle	B-D Micro-Fine	100	\$19.90	\$13.09
31 g x 8 mm needle	B-D Micro-Fine	100	\$19.90	\$13.09
31 g x 5 mm needle	B-D Micro-Fine	100	\$19.90	\$13.09

Note: prices and subsidies are ex-manufacturer, exclusive of GST.

- NovoFine 31 g x 6 mm pen needles would be listed in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 March 2005 as follows:

Chemical	Brand	Pack size	Proposed price and subsidy
31 g x 6 mm needles	NovoFine	100	\$26.00

Note: prices and subsidies are ex-manufacturer, exclusive of GST.

- NovoFine 31 g x 6 mm pen needles would be listed in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 March 2005 under the following restrictions:

NovoFine pen needles 31g x 6 mm are subsidised for children under 12 years of age.

- PHARMAC would provide subsidy protection for Becton Dickinson and Novo Nordisk insulin syringes and pen needles listed on the Pharmaceutical Schedule until 29 February 2008 under a sole supply arrangement.
- The number of insulin syringes and insulin pen needles available on a prescription would be increased from 50 to 100 for insulin syringes and from 30 to 100 for insulin pen needles.

The PHARMAC Board will consider this proposal at its January 2005 meeting with a proposed implementation from 1 April 2005. If you have comments to make on this proposal and would like those comments to be considered by the PHARMAC Board then please send them to Deepti Chotai at PHARMAC **by 5 p.m. on 14 January 2005**. The PHARMAC Board will consider all comments submitted by this date.

Yours sincerely



Wayne McNee  
Chief Executive