

3 June 2005

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To All Interested Parties

By facsimile (2 pages)

PROPOSAL FOR THE LISTING OF BIMATOPROST (LUMIGAN) AND BRIMONIDINE TARTRATE WITH TIMOLOL MALEATE (COMBIGAN)

PHARMAC and Allergan Pty Limited have entered into a provisional agreement relating to the supply of bimatoprost (Lumigan) and brimonidine tartrate with timolol maleate (Combigan). Acceptance of this provisional agreement is subject to consultation and approval by PHARMAC's Board (or Chief Executive acting under delegated authority).

The main features of this proposal are as follows:

In relation to bimatoprost

- PHARMAC would list bimatoprost (Lumigan) 0.03% eye drops in the *Glaucoma Preparations – Prostaglandin Analogues* therapeutic subgroup in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 August 2005, at a price and subsidy of \$19.50 per 3 ml OP (ex manufacturer, exclusive of GST).
- PHARMAC would apply reference pricing to all other brands in the *Glaucoma Preparations – Prostaglandin Analogues* therapeutic subgroup from 1 August 2005 as follows:

Chemical	Brand	Pack size	Current subsidy	Proposed subsidy from 1 June 2005
Latanoprost	Xalatan	2.5 ml OP	\$24.18	\$19.50
Travoprost	Travatan	2.5 ml OP	\$24.18	\$19.50

Note: Subsidies are ex manufacturer, exclusive of GST.

- Bimatoprost (Lumigan), latanoprost (Xalatan) and travoprost (Travatan) eye drops would be subject to the following Special Authority criteria (no changes to current criteria):

Prostaglandin Analogues

Special Authority for Subsidy - Form: SA0751

Initial application only from an ophthalmologist. Approvals valid for 2 years for applications meeting the following criteria:

Both:

- 1 Either:
 - 1.1 Monotherapy in primary open-angle glaucoma; or
 - 1.2 Adjunctive use for the treatment of open-angle glaucoma in a patient who has met the initial application criteria, and in whom prostaglandin analogue monotherapy has been ineffective in controlling intraocular pressure; and
- 2 Any of the following:
 - 2.1 Patient cannot tolerate beta-blockers, pilocarpine, and carbonic anhydrase inhibitors; or

- 2.2 Beta-blockers, pilocarpine and carbonic anhydrase inhibitors are contraindicated; or
- 2.3 A reduction in intraocular pressure of 15% or more is not achieved or maintained using carbonic anhydrase inhibitor either alone or in combination with a beta blocker; or
- 2.4 There is progressive visual field loss and/or optic nerve damage persists after treatment with carbonic anhydrase inhibitor either alone or in combination with a beta blocker.

Note

An adjunctive agent may be added without a further Special Authority application.

Renewal only from an ophthalmologist. Approvals valid for 2 years for applications meeting the following criteria:

The treatment remains appropriate and the patient is benefiting from treatment.

- Lumigan eye drops would be subject to subsidy protection until 30 June 2008.

In relation to brimonidine tartrate with timolol maleate

- PHARMAC would list, as soon as practical, should regulatory approval and other consents be granted, brimonidine tartrate 0.2% with timolol maleate 0.5% (Combigan) eye drops in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at a price and subsidy of \$18.50 per 5 ml OP (ex manufacturer, exclusive of GST).
- When listed, Combigan eye drops would be subject to the following Prescribing Guidelines:

Prescribing Guidelines

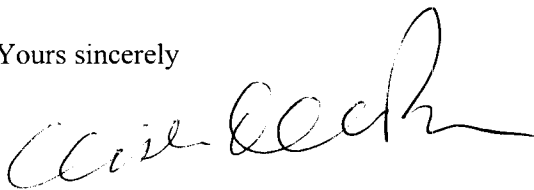
Combigan is subsidised for use as either monotherapy or as an adjunctive agent for the treatment of glaucoma.

Combigan should only be prescribed when:

- a) less expensive first line agents for the treatment of glaucoma are contraindicated; or
- b) the response to such subsidised agents is inadequate; or
- c) the patient cannot tolerate such subsidised agents.

PHARMAC's Board (or Chief Executive acting under delegated authority) will consider the proposal in June. If you wish to make comments on this proposal, please forward them to PHARMAC by **5 pm on Monday, 20 June 2005**.

Yours sincerely



Cristine Della Barca
Manager, Supply Side