

10 January 2006

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To All Interested Parties

*By facsimile (1 page)*

## **PROPOSAL FOR THE ALTERATION OF THE BRIMONIDINE TARTRATE WITH TIMOLOL MALEATE (COMBIGAN) RESTRICTION**

PHARMAC listed brimonidine tartrate with timolol maleate eyedrops (Combigan) in Section B and in Section F Part II of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 January 2006 subject to the following Prescribing Guideline:

### **Prescribing Guidelines**

Brimonidine tartrate 0.2% with timolol maleate 0.5% is subsidised for use as either monotherapy or as an adjunctive agent for the treatment of glaucoma.

Brimonidine tartrate 0.2% with timolol maleate 0.5% 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.

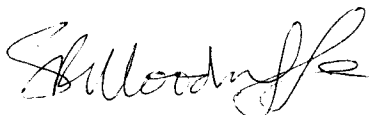
PHARMAC now proposes to add the following restriction to the brimonidine tartrate with timolol maleate listing to ensure that its use is appropriate and so that it has the same restrictions as similar glaucoma treatments:

- Retail pharmacy – specialist

Adding this restriction means that brimonidine tartrate with timolol maleate is only eligible for subsidy in the community if it is prescribed by a Specialist, or in the case of treatment recommended by a Specialist, if the prescription is endorsed with the words “recommended by [name of Specialist and year of authorization] and signed by the Practitioner.

PHARMAC’s Board (or Chief Executive acting under delegated authority) will consider the proposal in February 2006. If you wish to make comments on this proposal, please forward them to Stephen Woodruffe at PHARMAC by **5 pm on Friday, 27 January 2006**.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Woodruffe  
Therapeutic Group Manager Intern