

24 March 2006

To All Interested Parties

By facsimile (2 pages)

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE PHARMACEUTICAL SCHEDULE:

- 1) PHARMAC proposes to remove the Special Authority requirement for midazolam inj 1 mg per ml, 5 ml, and midazolam inj 5 mg per ml, 3 ml, in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 May 2006.

Changes to the Pharmaceutical Schedule as relating to midazolam injection would be as follows (changes in bold and strikethrough):

MIDAZOLAM

Inj 1 mg per ml, 5 ml – **Month restriction** ~~Special Authority – Hospital pharmacy [HP3]~~.....12.65 10 ✓/Hypnovel
 Inj 5 mg per ml, 3 ml – **Month restriction** ~~Special Authority – Hospital pharmacy [HP3]~~.....14.00 5 ✓/Hypnovel

~~Special Authority for Subsidy – Form SA0050~~

~~Initial application only from a relevant specialist. Approvals valid for 2 years where terminally ill patient.~~

~~Renewal only from a relevant specialist. Approvals valid for 2 years where terminally ill patient~~

This means that prescriptions for a one month supply of midazolam injection in the strengths above would be reimbursed without a special authority number from 1 May 2006. In addition, practitioners whose practice is in a rural area as defined in Section E part II of the Pharmaceutical Schedule would be able to order the number of midazolam injections that would reasonably be used within one month via a Practitioner's Supply Order (PSO).

- 2) PHARMAC proposes to remove the Retail pharmacy - specialist requirement for amiodarone inj 50 mg per ml, 3 ml, in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 May 2006.

Changes to the Pharmaceutical Schedule as relating to amiodarone hydrochloride would be as follows (changes in bold and strikethrough):

AMIODARONE HYDROCHLORIDE – Retail pharmacy – specialist

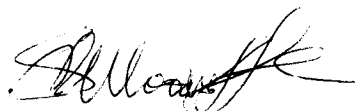
Tab 100 mg.... Retail pharmacy – specialist	18.65	30	✓/Aratac ✓/Cordarone-X
Tab 200 mg.... Retail pharmacy – specialist	30.52	30	✓/Aratac ✓/Cordarone-X
Inj 50 mg per ml, 3 ml.....	60.84	10	✓/Cordarone-X

- 3) PHARMAC proposes to add amiodarone injection to Section E part I (Pharmaceuticals that may be obtained on a Practitioner's Supply Order) as follows from 1 March 2006.

Therapeutic Group	Chemical	Presentation	Maximum Quantity
Cardiovascular System	Amiodarone	Inj 50 mg per ml, 3 ml	5

PHARMAC's Board (or Chief Executive acting under delegated authority) will consider the above proposals in April 2006. If you wish to make comments on this proposal, please forward them to PHARMAC by **4 pm on Friday, 7 April 2006**.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Woodruffe
Therapeutic Group Manager Intern