

30 March 2006

To all Pharmaceutical Suppliers, Hospital Pharmacists, Medical Groups and Interested Parties

Consultation on widening access to gemcitabine for bladder cancer

PHARMAC has entered into a provisional agreement with Eli Lilly and Company (NZ) Limited relating to the listing of gemcitabine (Gemzar) and abciximab (ReoPro) in the Pharmaceutical Schedule. Details of the proposal are outlined below:

Gemcitabine

The Special Authority restriction applying to the listing of gemcitabine in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule would be amended as follows from 1 June 2006 (changes in bold):

GEMCITABINE HYDROCHLORIDE – PCT only – specialist – Special Authority

Special Authority for Subsidy

Initial application only from a relevant specialist. Approvals valid for 12 months for applications meeting the following criteria:

Any of the following:

- 1 The patient has non small cell lung carcinoma (stage IIIa, or above); or
- 2 The patient has advanced malignant mesothelioma*; or
- 3 The patient has advanced pancreatic carcinoma; or
- 4 The patient has ovarian*, fallopian tube* or primary peritoneal carcinoma*; or
- 5 **The patient has advanced transitional cell carcinoma of the urothelial tract (locally advanced or metastatic).**

Renewal only from a relevant specialist. Approvals valid for 12 months for applications meeting the following criteria:

Both:

- 6 The patient requires continued therapy; or
- 7 The tumour has relapsed and requires re-treatment

Note indications marked with a * are unapproved indications.

Abciximab

Abciximab 10 mg vials would be listed in Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 June 2006 as follows:

Chemical	Brand	Presentation	Strength	Pack size	Price
Abciximab	ReoPro	Vial	10 mg	1	\$579.53

It is anticipated that the proposed changes, if accepted by PHARMAC's Board, would take effect from 1 June 2006. If you wish to make comments for the PHARMAC Board to consider when making its decision on whether to accept this proposal, please forward them to PHARMAC by **5:00 pm, 13 April 2006.**

Yours sincerely



Sean Dougherty
Therapeutic Group Manager