

To: All New Zealand Pharmacies, IPA Pharmacy
facilitators, Wholesalers and Pharmaceutical
Suppliers

Fax Number: Autodial

From: PHARMAC

Subject: Short supply of adrenaline

Date: 23 January 2007

Dear Pharmacist / Wholesaler

Adrenaline 1:1000, 1 ml, injection.

As you are probably aware, there is a shortage of adrenaline 1:1000 stock at wholesaler and pharmacy level due to manufacturing issues. This is an international problem that is compounded by the short expiry on remaining stocks (being end of February 2007).

This shortage is impacting upon District Health Board Hospitals and other users of adrenaline, and as a result some unregistered stock has been imported from other countries and supplied under Section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981.

We would like to inform you of recent progress made to resolve the current stock shortage.

PHARMAC and Medsafe, together with Mayne Pharma (NZ) Limited (the current supplier) and AstraZeneca Limited, have been working to identify a solution.

AstraZeneca has been able to provide some adrenaline 1:1000, 1 ml, injections, with PHARMAC underwriting the value of the stock in the event that it cannot all be sold before Mayne recommences supply. This stock has New Zealand registration.

AstraZeneca anticipates having stock available for supply as follows:

- 1000 50-injection packs and 2,000 5-injection packs as soon as possible, allowing for time taken to airfreight (expected around 26 January).
- 2,000 5-injection packs expected by 15 February 2007.
- 2,000 5-injection packs expected by 1 March 2007.
- 2,000 5-injection packs expected by 15 March 2007.

We are aware that the 5-injection packs would be preferred by most users due to issues of light sensitivity making splitting of packs problematic. However, it would be helpful, given the

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importance of this issue at a national level, if large users of adrenaline order the 50-injection packs. While this may not be ideal it will assist the smaller users (e.g. general practitioners) in obtaining the 5-injection packs. Assistance in this regard would be appreciated.

As we are sure you will appreciate, the matter of international supply chains and manufacture are complex and the situation is changing rapidly. We anticipate being able to provide further information on the supply of Mayne stock (or further supplies of alternative stock) in the next 2 weeks. Decisions on future actions will be taken (and further communicated) once this information is available.

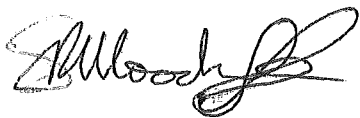
Due to time constraints, it has not been possible to include the AstraZeneca product in the printed Pharmaceutical Schedule February Update to enable pharmacies to make claims, however it will be included in the electronic version, and therefore will be included in the dispensing software updates by software vendors. Both pack sizes will therefore be fully subsidised in the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 February 2007.

Some hospitals and pharmacies have ordered stock under Section 29 of the Medicines Act from Health Support Limited. If, once AstraZeneca commences supply, a recall of the Health Support Limited stock is requested by Medsafe, as initially indicated, hospital pharmacies should contact PHARMAC in writing with the volume (and cost of stock) that has been written off.

We would like to thank those involved in addressing this matter for their efforts.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact PHARMAC on 0800 66 00 50 (9:00am - 4:00pm, Monday to Friday).

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Woodruffe', written in a cursive style.

Stephen Woodruffe
Therapeutic Group Manager