

30 January 2007

To All Pharmaceutical Suppliers, Medical Groups and Interested Parties

Further period of consultation on a provisional agreement with Pacific Pharmaceuticals for the listing of generic quetiapine (Quetapel) on the Pharmaceutical Schedule

On 14 December 2006, PHARMAC consulted on a provisional agreement to list generic quetiapine (Quetapel) in Sections B and H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule as soon as is practicable following Medsafe registration (but not before 1 July 2007), with responses requested by 12 January 2007. We received several responses from interested parties saying that more time was needed to respond to consultation. We have therefore decided to provide a further period for consultation, until 16 February 2007.

We would also like to take this opportunity to clarify some other points that were raised in consultation, as detailed below. Key aspects of the proposal are as follows:

- As per our letter dated 14 December 2006, Quetapel would be listed in Section B and in Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule as follows (prices ex-manufacturer, excl. GST):

Pharmaceutical	Brand	Form	Strength	Pack Size	Price and subsidy
Quetiapine	Quetapel	Tablet	25 mg	90	\$20.62
Quetiapine	Quetapel	Tablet	100 mg	90	\$41.25
Quetiapine	Quetapel	Tablet	200 mg	90	\$70.88
Quetiapine	Quetapel	Tablet	300 mg	90	\$119.25

Quetapel would be fully subsidised without the requirement for endorsement for subsidy that currently applies to the Seroquel (AstraZeneca) brand of quetiapine in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule. Quetapel would have protection from delisting and subsidy reduction until 1 December 2009.

- Under this proposal, Seroquel would remain fully funded for patients who meet the endorsement criteria, as it is now. Quetapel would not be replacing Seroquel – it would simply be listed in addition to the current brand.
- If, at some future time, PHARMAC was to consider altering the availability of, or subsidy for, Seroquel, we would seek advice from the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (PTAC) and/or its relevant Subcommittee, before consulting more widely on any proposal.
- This proposal is contingent on Quetapel gaining regulatory approval from Medsafe. This will require demonstration of bioequivalence to Seroquel in studies that follow international guidelines.
- 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, 16 February 2007**. All comments submitted by this date will be considered.

Yours sincerely



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Therapeutic Group Manager

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