

1 February 2007

Dear Supplier

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS – SUPPLY OF INFLUENZA VACCINE

PHARMAC invites proposals for the supply of seasonal influenza vaccine in New Zealand.

This request for proposals (RFP) letter incorporates the following schedules:

- Schedule 1 specifies the pharmaceutical for which PHARMAC is requesting proposals and sets out the background to the RFP and the types of proposals sought;
- Schedule 2 describes the process that PHARMAC expects to follow in relation to the RFP;
- Schedule 3 sets out information about the estimated size of the current subsidised market for the pharmaceutical; and
- Schedule 4 contains the RFP form in which you are to provide details of your proposal.

If you wish to submit a proposal, you must submit it to PHARMAC no later than 5.00 p.m. on **Thursday 15 March 2007**.

If you have any questions about this RFP, please contact Andrea Dick (+64 4 9167 556) at PHARMAC.

We look forward to receiving your proposal.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Brougham
Acting Chief Executive

SCHEDULE 1: PHARMACEUTICAL, BACKGROUND TO RFP AND TYPES OF PROPOSALS SOUGHT

PHARMACEUTICAL

PHARMAC is interested in considering proposals from suppliers of seasonal Influenza Vaccine for supply to the eligible population for the annual national influenza vaccination campaign starting early March and concluding 30 June of each year. Proposals should be in relation to the supply of Influenza Vaccine alone and should not include any other vaccines or pharmaceuticals either related or not to influenza vaccination.

BACKGROUND TO RFP

Since 1997 the New Zealand Government has subsidised Influenza Vaccine for an eligible population.

In 2004 a RFP process was conducted resulting in a sole supply contract being awarded to Merck Sharp and Dohme and Sanofi Pasteur for the supply of Vaxigrip for the 2005 – 2007 seasons. As Vaxigrip was not able to be supplied from the beginning of the 2005 season, alternative supplies were sought for that season.

An Influenza Vaccine Purchasing Review was conducted after the 2005 season, and as a result two suppliers were sought for the 2006 and 2007 seasons.

The Ministry of Health already has an agreement with CSL for the supply of at least 150,000 doses of Influenza Vaccine (Fluvax) each season; this arrangement is for the 2006 to 2010 seasons. For the 2008 to 2010 seasons it is anticipated the Ministry of Health will order 150,000 doses from CSL.

Merck Sharp and Dohme and Sanofi Pasteur are currently the Preferred Subsidised Supplier for the 2006 and 2007 seasons, supplying the market with all subsidised Influenza Vaccine (Vaxigrip) other than the 150,000 doses of Fluvax supplied by CSL.

This RFP is seeking proposals for supply of sufficient subsidised vaccine to meet the needs of the market, other than the 150,000 Fluvax doses to be supplied by CSL, from 2008 for a maximum of three years. Note that the doses of Fluvax would be the first to be dispatched.

Distribution

Up until 2005 the sole supplier of the influenza vaccine managed and met the cost for distribution of the vaccine in New Zealand. The distributor received stock from the single supplier and managed orders from doctors and vaccinators. The distributor invoiced the doctors and vaccinators for the cost of the vaccine and accounted to the supplier for the amounts received from doctors and vaccinators. Doctors and vaccinators paid the cost of the vaccine and were reimbursed through the DHBs' payment agent, HealthPAC, for the cost of the vaccine and the immunisation benefit.

For 2005 – 2007, due to seeking alternative supplies in 2005 and then implementing dual supply in 2006 and 2007, PHARMAC managed the contracting for the distribution aspect of this campaign.

This RFP is seeking proposals for the supplier of vaccines to resume management of distribution.

Proposals should therefore include distribution to vaccinators within the price of the vaccine.

Proposals should contain information on the nominated distributor's capabilities in managing the influenza vaccine campaign including delivery timeframes, returns policy and any minimum order requirements.

Proposals must also outline the cost of distributing the 150,000 doses of Fluvax (with the costs to be paid directly by the Ministry of Health). If required, the supplier must be willing to use best endeavours to reach an agreement with the Ministry of Health (or have its distributor reach such an agreement) regarding the distribution of these vaccines, invoicing for the costs of distribution and returning the money received from the vaccinators.

The distributor must be able to accept the 150,000 doses of Fluvax from 1 February of each year and will be required to dispatch the 150,000 doses of Fluvax at the beginning of each season, prior to any other brand of subsidised vaccine being dispatched.

The distributor must manage the Fluvax stock and the other subsidised brand(s) of influenza vaccine to ensure that once distribution starts there is no disruption to supply.

Fluvax will be sold and subsidised at the same price as the other subsidised brand(s) of influenza vaccine.

The distributor must provide a free phone, free fax and online ordering system (where possible) that doctors and vaccinators could use to place orders. The ordering system would need to be in place by 1 January 2008 to allow doctors and vaccinators to pre-order influenza vaccine prior to the influenza season.

The resulting contract(s) with the supplier(s) will require the distributor to comply with the New Zealand Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) Vaccine Storage and Distribution National Standards 2nd Edition (available from www.imac.auckland.ac.nz) and with any changes to these standards that occur during the tenure of the supply agreement.

Reporting

The supplier(s) will be required to provide comprehensive reports to PHARMAC throughout the influenza season including details of sales by District Health Board (DHB) area not just the total for the country. The reports must be supplied to PHARMAC on a monthly basis in an electronic Excel spreadsheet format with volumes reported on a per week basis.

Eligibility for Subsidised Vaccine

It is anticipated that the current groups that are eligible for subsidised vaccination would remain unchanged, these groups are:

- all people 65 years of age and over;
- people under 65 years of age with:
 - the following cardiovascular disease:
 - ischaemic heart disease;

- congestive heart disease;
 - rheumatic heart disease;
 - congenital heart disease; or
 - cerebro-vascular disease;
- the following chronic respiratory disease:
 - asthma, if on regular preventative therapy; or
 - other chronic respiratory disease with impaired lung function;
- diabetes;
- chronic renal disease;
- any cancer, excluding basal and squamous skin cancers if not invasive;
- the following other conditions:
 - autoimmune disease;
 - immune suppression;
 - HIV;
 - transplant recipients;
 - neuromuscular and CNS diseases;
 - haemoglobinopathies; or
 - children on long-term aspirin;
- the following conditions are excluded from funding;
 - asthma not requiring regular preventative therapy;
 - hypertension and/or dyslipidaemia without evidence of end-organ disease;
 - pregnancy in the absence of another risk factor.

Contract duration

The resulting contract(s) from this RFP process would be for a maximum exclusive period of three campaign years until 30 June 2010. During this period the eligibility criteria, which are determined by the Ministry of Health, may change and any contract(s) resulting from this process would provide for this.

Funding

Funding for Influenza Vaccine is provided to DHBs on an annual basis; the resulting contract(s) from this process would reflect that ongoing funding for Influenza Vaccine is not confirmed.

Claiming

Currently, the vaccinator pays the cost of the vaccine to the distributor and is reimbursed through the DHBs' payment agent, HealthPac, for the cost of the vaccine and the immunisation benefit. It is proposed that this mechanism would remain unchanged.

Private (patient funded) Vaccinations

For those patients that do not meet the eligibility criteria, influenza vaccination is available at a cost to the patient (the private market). In some cases these are funded by an employer.

There is no requirement for the private market vaccine to be purchased from the same supplier as the subsidised vaccine.

However for simplicity many vaccinators might only stock the subsidised brands and therefore these brands may supply a large proportion of the private market as well.

Suppliers would need to consider the impact this may have on the volumes of vaccines required and ensure that this would not affect the ability to supply the subsidised market.

Promotion

The National Influenza Strategy Group (NISG) co-ordinates the annual promotional resources, including the Influenza Kit. It is anticipated the supplier(s) would provide information and work with NISG when requested. Further information about NISG can be found at www.influenza.org.nz.

Pandemic Supply

Any contract(s) resulting from this process would not include provisions that would restrict the use of other brands of Influenza Vaccine in the event of a pandemic. The resulting contract(s) would however include provisions pertaining to compliance with any Ministry of Health and WHO requirements with regard to pandemic supply situations.

Expected Outcome

PHARMAC is seeking an outcome from this process which includes a contract for supply of the vaccine to be available in the New Zealand market by late February each season. This contract may be a preferred supply or multiple party contract. For example a supplier may wish to be the preferred supplier (supplying all doses above the 150,000 Fluvax doses supplied by CSL) or the result could be multiple contracts with multiple suppliers. Suppliers must be clear about what their proposal(s) relates to (preferred supply or one of a range of suppliers).

TYPES OF PROPOSALS SOUGHT

Suppliers are requested to submit a proposal for:

- Preferred subsidised supply for a maximum period of three winter campaigns until June 2010, where the supplier meets the demand for all doses of Influenza Vaccine other than the 150,000 doses which are supplied to the Ministry of Health by CSL.

Suppliers may also like to submit other types of proposals. Possibilities include:

- Supply of a fixed volume of doses per season. Note, it is possible agreement(s) would be necessary with other suppliers to ensure sufficient stock was supplied to cover the entire market and therefore if a proposal of this type is submitted there could be no restriction on any other supplier gaining a subsidised listing.
- Listed subsidised supply at a secured price for a period to be specified in the proposal. Note this type of proposal could not involve any restriction on any other supplier gaining a subsidised listing.

PHARMAC is aware that under a multiple supplier arrangement it is possible PHARMAC would be required to have some co-ordination role in the distribution of the vaccines; this would be negotiated with the applicable suppliers if necessary. However, please note that PHARMAC does not intend to contract with a distributor itself or to manage any payment of distribution services.

PHARMAC is not willing to consider the following types of proposals:

- Sole subsidised supply.
- Any proposal that involves any product other than Influenza Vaccine.
- Any proposal that involves changes to the current eligibility criteria or changes to the process of administration by general practitioners and vaccinators or to the process of claiming of the subsidy and immunisation benefit.
- Expenditure risk sharing mechanisms based on claims data or that would require any audit of claims data.

Subject to the above, PHARMAC is open to considering any other types of proposals you may wish to put forward.

SCHEDULE 2: RFP PROCESS

PHARMAC expects to follow the process set out below in the sequence indicated.

SUBMISSION

You may submit more than one proposal. Each proposal will be considered as a separate proposal.

Proposals must be submitted no later than 5.00 p.m. (New Zealand time) on Thursday 15 March 2007. Late proposals will only be considered at PHARMAC's discretion.

You cannot withdraw your proposal, once submitted, while the RFP process is continuing.

All proposals must be submitted to PHARMAC:

By courier or hand delivery: Level 14
Cigna House
40 Mercer Street
Wellington 6143

By post: PO Box 10-254
Wellington 6143

to the attention of Andrea Dick, Procurement Initiatives Manager.

Proposals cannot be submitted by facsimile or email.

Please include a sample of vaccine presentation and packaging with your proposal.

EVALUATION

- (a) Following the deadline for submitting proposals an Evaluation Committee comprising PHARMAC staff will evaluate each proposal to select its preferred proposal(s).
- (b) The basis on which the Evaluation Committee will evaluate proposals, and the weight to be given to the criteria and other matters that it considers, are to be determined by the Evaluation Committee at its sole discretion. The matters to be taken into account by the Evaluation Committee will, however, include:
 - 1) the decision criteria set out in PHARMAC's then current Operating Policies and Procedures (**OPPs**), as published on PHARMAC's website (www.pharmac.govt.nz), to the extent applicable;
 - 2) any clinical advice from PTAC or its relevant sub-committee or other appropriate clinical advisors sought by PHARMAC;
 - 3) the cost to the Ministry of Health in distributing the 150,000 doses of Fluvax from CSL; and
 - 4) any other matters that the Evaluation Committee considers to be relevant (provided that PHARMAC will notify such matters and allow an opportunity for submitters of proposals to address them).
- (c) Each proposal will be evaluated on the basis that the price offered, the expenditure entailed, and any other terms included in the proposal, are the best that the supplier is able to offer. If you do not put forward your best terms you risk having your proposal excluded at the evaluation stage.
- (d) PHARMAC is not bound to select the lowest priced proposal or any proposal.

NEGOTIATION

- (e) PHARMAC may negotiate with the submitter(s) of one or more preferred proposals, in the latter case whether or not the acceptance of either supplier's proposal would exclude acceptance of the other proposal.
- (f) Negotiations will proceed on the basis that PHARMAC's standard terms and conditions for supply of pharmaceuticals, which are available on request from PHARMAC, will apply. In addition, a number of terms and conditions specific to the supply of influenza vaccine will be necessary. As an indication, some of these are outlined in Schedule 1 above, but this is without limitation to other clauses which may be necessary.
- (g) Given that PHARMAC expects your proposal to be the best you can offer, PHARMAC does not intend to initiate negotiation with you on price. However, PHARMAC does not exclude the possibility that the final price agreed will be different from the price put forward in your proposal, as a result of the impact that other negotiated terms may have on price.
- (h) PHARMAC may negotiate and enter into a provisional agreement with a preferred supplier(s) on whatever special terms, in addition to PHARMAC's standard terms and conditions, PHARMAC considers appropriate.
- (i) If PHARMAC and the supplier(s) are unable to reach a provisional agreement within what PHARMAC considers to be a reasonable time, PHARMAC may terminate those negotiations and negotiate with a different supplier(s).

CONSULTATION AND APPROVAL

- (j) Any provisional agreement will be conditional on consultation with suppliers and other interested parties, to the extent PHARMAC considers consultation to be necessary or appropriate, and on Board approval (or approval by PHARMAC's Chief Executive under delegated authority).
- (k) PHARMAC will not consider any counter-offers received during consultation.
- (l) The provisional agreement and responses to consultation will be considered by PHARMAC's Board (or by PHARMAC's Chief Executive under delegated authority) in accordance with the decision criteria in PHARMAC's then current OPPs.
- (m) If the Board or the Chief Executive does not approve the provisional agreement, then PHARMAC may initiate negotiations for a provisional agreement with any other supplier(s).
- (n) The RFP process will be complete once PHARMAC has notified suppliers of either:
 - 1) the Board's or its Chief Executive's decision to accept a negotiated agreement; or
 - 2) the termination of the RFP process.

MISCELLANEOUS

- (o) PHARMAC reserves the right:
 - 1) to make such adjustments to the above RFP process as it considers appropriate, at any time during the process, provided that it notifies suppliers affected by those changes;
 - 2) not to accept any proposal;
 - 3) to seek clarification of any proposal;

- 4) to meet with any supplier in relation to its proposal;
 - 5) to enter into an agreement or arrangement that differs in material respects from that envisaged in this RFP letter;
 - 6) to terminate this RFP process at any time, by notifying suppliers who submitted proposals, and, following termination, to negotiate with any supplier(s) on whatever terms PHARMAC thinks fit;
 - 7) to readvertise for proposals.
- (p) PHARMAC may consult or seek clinical advice from PTAC or its relevant sub-committee at any stage of the RFP process. PHARMAC will notify you if the clinical advice results in any changes to the terms of the RFP.
 - (q) You must not initiate or engage in any communication with other suppliers in relation to the RFP, whether before or after submitting their proposal(s), until such time as a provisional agreement is accepted by PHARMAC's Board or Chief Executive.
 - (r) You must not at any time initiate any communication with PHARMAC's directors or officers, the Ministry of Health, the Minister of Health, NISG or District Health Boards, with a view to influencing the outcome of this RFP process.
 - (s) You must pay your own costs for preparing and submitting your proposal.
 - (t) Proposals are submitted in reliance on your own knowledge, skill, and independent advice, and not in reliance on any representations made by PHARMAC.
 - (u) Your submission of a proposal will be taken as acceptance of the terms contained in this RFP letter. PHARMAC may exclude your proposal if you do not comply with any of the terms contained in this RFP letter.
 - (v) This is an RFP and not a tender. Your proposal is not an offer capable of being converted into a contract for the supply of influenza vaccine by PHARMAC's apparent acceptance and instead a separate agreement needs to be negotiated.
 - (w) PHARMAC is not liable in any way whatsoever for any direct or indirect loss (including loss of profit), damage or cost of any kind incurred by you or any other person in relation to this RFP.
 - (x) PHARMAC will consider your proposal and information exchanged between us in any negotiations relating to your proposal, excluding information already in the public domain, to be confidential to us and our employees, legal advisors and other consultants, the Ministry of Health and DHBs (**Confidential Information**). However, you acknowledge that it may be necessary or appropriate for PHARMAC to release Confidential Information:
 - 1) pursuant to the Official Information Act 1982; or
 - 2) in the course of consultation on a provisional agreement entered into with a supplier; or
 - 3) in publicly notifying any approval by the PHARMAC Board of that agreement; or
 - 4) otherwise pursuant to PHARMAC's public law or any other legal obligations.
 - (y) PHARMAC may consult with you before deciding whether to disclose Confidential Information for the purposes described in sub-clauses (1) to (4) above. You acknowledge, however, that it is for PHARMAC to decide, in its absolute discretion, whether it is necessary or appropriate to disclose information for any of the above purposes, provided that PHARMAC shall act in good faith in disclosing any Confidential Information.

ANTICIPATED TIMETABLE

- (z) Following receipt of proposals, PHARMAC anticipates:
- 1) the Evaluation Committee evaluating proposals in March/April 2007;
 - 2) negotiating with submitter(s) of one or more preferred proposals in May/June 2007;
 - 3) consulting on a provisional agreement in June/July;
 - 4) PHARMAC's Board or Chief Executive considering this provisional agreement in or after July/August 2007,
- provided that the above time frames are only approximate and may be extended, without notice being required from PHARMAC, if any stages of the RFP process take longer than anticipated.
- (aa) Under this indicative timetable, PHARMAC expects to have changes made to the Pharmaceutical Schedule by January 2008 for the subsidised season beginning March 2008.

SCHEDULE 3: CURRENT LISTING AND MARKET INFORMATION

The following information relates to the estimated subsidised market size of seasonal Influenza Vaccine. The information is approximate and indicative only. PHARMAC makes no representation as to the accuracy of this information or as to the level of sales or likely sales of Influenza Vaccine and, while PHARMAC has taken all reasonable care in preparing the information set out below, it accepts no liability for any errors or omissions in the information. PHARMAC is not obliged to notify you in the event of any change to the figures below.

Year	Total vaccines distributed*	Total vaccines subsidised
2005	717,000	410,000
2006	761,000	440,000

* Until the end of the subsidised season which was 31 July in 2005 and 30 June in 2006. It is anticipated the subsidised season will run until 30 June for the 2008 to 2010 seasons. Further sales are possible after the end of the season however they would not be eligible for subsidy.

SCHEDULE 4: PROPOSAL FORM

An electronic version of this form is available on PHARMAC's website at <www.pharmac.govt.nz>. You should expand the boxes as necessary.

[Supplier to insert date]

Acting Chief Executive
 C/- Andrea Dick
 PHARMAC
 PO Box 10-254
 (or for courier delivery:
 Level 14, Cigna House
 40 Mercer Street)
 Wellington 6143
 New Zealand

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposal for the supply of Influenza Vaccine

In response to your request for proposals (RFP) dated [*insert date*], we put forward the following proposal in respect of seasonal Influenza Vaccine.

Set out below is further information in support of our proposal.

(a) Our contact details:

Name of supplier	
Contact person	
Address	
Phone	
Facsimile	
Email address	

(b) Details of pharmaceutical presentation (please include a sample of vaccine presentation and packaging with proposal):

Brand name	
Full description of the vaccine including formulation and potency (label claim)	
Presentation (e.g pre-filled syringe, individual vial, multi-dose vial)	
Needle specification, including if attached or available separately	
Route of administration (e.g. subcutaneous, intramuscular)	
Pack size (e.g. 1's, 10's)	
Packaging type (e.g. individual box)	

Name and address of manufacturer of the vaccine	
Shelf life of the vaccine	

(c) Key features of our proposal:

(d) Information relating to pricing (\$NZ, GST exclusive), including any related conditions or proposed terms affecting cost for PHARMAC (e.g. price in return for preferred supplier, risk sharing mechanisms, etc). Note this price is to include distribution to vaccinators.

Proposals must be clear what the price relates to, for example preferred subsidised supply, or fixed volume, or general listing. Suppliers are welcome to submit more than one proposal, each will be considered separately.

(e) Information relating to pricing (\$NZ, GST exclusive) for distribution of the 150,000 doses of Fluvax, to be paid by the Ministry of Health:

(f) Information about proposed distribution arrangements (including a returns policy for unused vaccines and any minimum order requirements) and ability to monitor cold chain requirements:

(g) Evidence of market approval and any other required consents:

Date of market approval (please attach copy of Medsafe Gazette notice)	
OR Date of submission of dossier (please attach confirmation from Medsafe that dossier has been submitted)	
OR Expected date of dossier submission to Medsafe	

Insert any other consents required for pharmaceutical	
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(h) Information about our ability to ensure the continuity of supply of the pharmaceutical:

(i) Information about our previous supply performance and relevant expertise:

(j) Proposals/suggestions (e.g. pricing, risk sharing arrangements, etc) regarding the pharmaceutical not expressly identified in this RFP that we would like PHARMAC to consider as part of our proposal:

(k) Reasons why PHARMAC should accept our proposal:

(l) Any additional information that PHARMAC should consider when evaluating our proposal: