

PHARMAC

Pharmaceutical Management Agency

Media release

24 May, 2007

\$21m savings for migraine medicines

People needing relief for migraine attacks will have a choice of fully funded treatments as a result of a new move by PHARMAC that will also save more than \$20 million.

PHARMAC has listed generic sumatriptan tablets – which means that they will be fully funded for patients. At the same time, GlaxoSmithKline has agreed to lower the cost of its brand of the drug (Imigran), so it will continue to be fully funded as well.

PHARMAC Medical Director, Dr Peter Moodie, says the decision is good news for patients and the taxpayer.

“It is pleasing to be able to maintain access to the medicines that we fund while saving \$21 million over the next five years.”

“Migraines impact on a number of New Zealanders and PHARMAC is pleased to be able to continue giving them access to a medicine they trust and to free up funds that we can use to purchase other medicines.”

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