

27 June 2007

To whom it may concern,

Medical groups, Optometrists and Dispensing Opticians Board, Pharmaceutical Suppliers and Interested Parties

Consultation on the removal of prescriber restrictions from the medicines in the Sensory Therapeutic Group of the Pharmaceutical Schedule

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal to remove a number of prescriber restrictions from the medicines listed in the Sensory Therapeutic Group of the Pharmaceutical Schedule (please see the attached table illustrating the proposed changes).

We note that the removal of the specialist restriction would not reflect any changes to the safety profiles of these medicines and it would remain the responsibility of the prescriber to ensure these treatments are prescribed safely.

It is anticipated that the proposed changes, if approved by the PHARMAC Board or Acting Chief Executive under Delegated Authority, would take effect from 1 September 2007.

If you wish to make comments for the PHARMAC Board, or Acting Chief Executive, to consider when making its decision on whether to accept this proposal, please forward them to Jan Quin on (04) 916 7511 or jan.quin@pharmac.govt.nz at PHARMAC by **5.00pm Friday 13th July 2007**.

Yours sincerely



Jan Quin
Team Leader Medical

Table showing the proposed changes to the current restrictions (deletions in strikethrough) for the sensory therapeutic group:

Pharmaceutical	Presentation	Restrictions
Aciclovir	Eye ointment 3%	Retail pharmacy specialist
Betaxolol hydrochloride	Eye drops 0.25% and 0.5%	Retail pharmacy specialist
Brimonidine tartrate	Eye drops 0.2%	Retail pharmacy specialist, Prescribing guideline
Brimonidine tartrate with timolol maleate	Eye drops 0.2% with timolol maleate 0.5%	Retail pharmacy specialist, Prescribing guideline
Ciprofloxacin	Eye drops 0.3%	Retail pharmacy specialist prescription 1) Specialist must be an ophthalmologist 2) For the treatment of bacterial keratitis or severe bacterial conjunctivitis resistant to chloramphenicol
Dexamethasone	Eye drops and ointment 0.1%	Retail pharmacy specialist
Dexamethasone with framycetin and gramicidin	Ear/eye drops 500 µg with framycetin sulphate 5 mg and gramicidin 50 µg per ml	Retail pharmacy specialist when used in the treatment of eye conditions
Dexamethasone with neomycin and Polymyxin B sulphate	Eye ointment 0.1% with neomycin sulphate 0.35% and polymyxin B sulphate 6,000 units per g Eye drops 0.1% with neomycin sulphate 0.35% and polymyxin B sulphate 6,000 units per ml	Retail pharmacy specialist
Diclofenac sodium	Eye drops 1mg per ml	Retail pharmacy specialist
Dorzolamide hydrochloride	Eye drops 2%	Retail pharmacy specialist, Prescribing guideline
Dorzolamide hydrochloride with timolol maleate	Eye drops 2% with timolol maleate 0.5%	Retail pharmacy specialist, Prescribing guideline
Fluorometholone	Eye drops 0.1%	Retail pharmacy specialist
Gentamicin	Eye drops 0.3%	Retail pharmacy specialist
Levobunolol	Eye drops 0.25% and 0.5%	Retail pharmacy specialist
Pilocarpine	Eye drops, 2% single dose	Special Authority – initial applications and renewals from a medical practitioner relevant practitioner
Prednisolone acetate	Eye drops 0.12% & 1%	Retail pharmacy specialist
Timolol maleate	Eye drops 0.25% and 0.5%, and eye drops gel forming 0.25% and 0.5%	Retail pharmacy specialist
Tobramycin	Eye ointment and eye drops 0.3%	Retail pharmacy specialist