

16 November 2007

To all Pharmaceutical Suppliers, Hospital Pharmacists, Medical Groups and Interested Parties

**Consultation on a provisional agreement with Arrow Pharmaceuticals regarding the listing of various pharmaceuticals on the Pharmaceutical Schedule**

***The funding proposal***

PHARMAC and Arrow Pharmaceuticals have entered into a provisional agreement:

- To amend the listing of nifedipine (Arrow-Nifedipine XR) 30 mg and 60 mg long acting tablets in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule.
- To amend the listing of ranitidine hydrochloride (Arrow-Ranitidine) 150 mg and 300 mg tablets in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule.
- To amend the listing of norfloxacin (Arrow-Norfloxacin) 400 mg tablet in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule and to list norfloxacin (Arrow-Norfloxacin) 400 mg tablet in Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule,.
- To list, following registration, diazepam (Arrow-Diazepam) 2 mg and 5 mg tablets in Sections B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule.

PHARMAC is now seeking feedback on this proposal.

***How do I make a submission?***

We are inviting feedback from anyone interested in this proposal. You can make submissions in writing to the addresses that follow. We welcome feedback by email, fax or post. The deadline for submissions is **5pm, Friday, 30 November 2007**.

By email: send to [matthew.perkins@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:matthew.perkins@pharmac.govt.nz)

By fax: send to +64 4 460 4995

By mail: send to Matthew Perkins, PHARMAC, PO Box 10-254, Wellington.

***What will happen then?***

All of the submissions we receive before the deadline will be taken into consideration before a recommendation is taken to PHARMAC's Board, or Acting Chief Executive under delegated authority. The PHARMAC Board, or Acting Chief Executive under delegated authority, will then make a decision on this proposal.

If a decision to amend the listings of Arrow-Norfloxacin and Arrow-Ranitidine is made, it is anticipated that the proposed changes would take effect from 1 July 2008 at the earliest. Amending the listing of Arrow-Nifedipine XR would not occur before 1 January 2009 and the listing of Arrow-Diazepam would occur as soon as possible following necessary regulatory consents being obtained.

### **What are the details of the proposal?**

Keys aspects of the proposal are summarised below:

| <b>Pharmaceutical</b>    | <b>Form and Strength</b> | <b>Pack Size</b> | <b>Brand</b>        | <b>Current price and subsidy</b> | <b>Proposed price and subsidy</b> | <b>Proposed date of change</b> |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Diazepam                 | 2 mg tablet              | 500              | Arrow-Diazepam      | Not currently listed             | \$11.44                           | Once registered                |
| Diazepam                 | 5 mg tablet              | 500              | Arrow-Diazepam      | Not currently listed             | \$13.71                           | Once registered                |
| Nifedipine               | 30 mg long acting tablet | 30               | Arrow-Nifedipine XR | \$13.25                          | \$10.70                           | 1 January 2009                 |
| Nifedipine               | 60 mg long acting tablet | 30               | Arrow-Nifedipine XR | \$19.00                          | \$15.35                           | 1 January 2009                 |
| Norfloxacin              | 400 mg tablet            | 100              | Arrow-Norfloxacin   | \$32.14                          | \$22.50                           | 1 July 2008                    |
| Ranitidine hydrochloride | 150 mg tablet            | 250              | Arrow-Ranitidine    | \$7.99                           | \$7.99                            | 1 July 2008                    |
| Ranitidine hydrochloride | 300 mg tablet            | 250              | Arrow-Ranitidine    | \$10.94                          | \$10.94                           | 1 July 2008                    |

- All products would have protection from delisting and subsidy reduction until at least 1 July 2011.

The current supplier of diazepam has indicated that it intends to discontinue this product. This proposal would provide an alternative for the 2 mg and 5 mg strengths. It is likely that the 10 mg strength would be discontinued and no longer available. It is proposed that Arrow-Diazepam would have protection from delisting and subsidy reduction for 5 years following registration.

### **Where can I find more information?**

You can seek further information by calling me on +64 4 9167 507 or emailing [matthew.perkins@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:matthew.perkins@pharmac.govt.nz).

We look forward to receiving your feedback on this proposal.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Perkins  
Procurement Initiatives Manager