

28 February 2008

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## **PHARMAC consultation**

### **Proposals to fund a new strength of venlafaxine and to amend the listing of salbutamol with ipratropium bromide aerosol inhaler**

#### ***Proposal summaries***

PHARMAC is proposing to subsidise an additional strength (37.5 mg) of the antidepressant medication venlafaxine (Efexor XR) from 1 May 2008. This follows clinical advice that the lower strength would be useful for titration and for treatment in the elderly.

PHARMAC is also proposing to amend the conditions for the listing of salbutamol 100 µg with ipratropium bromide 20 µg aerosol inhaler (Combivent).

#### ***Feedback sought***

We welcome your feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback please submit it in writing by **5pm, Thursday, 13 March 2008** to:

Geraldine MacGibbon  
Therapeutic Group Manager  
PHARMAC  
PO Box 10-254  
Wellington 6143

Email: [geraldine.macgibbon@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:geraldine.macgibbon@pharmac.govt.nz)

Fax: (04) 460 4995

All feedback received before the closing date will be considered by PHARMAC's Board (or Chief Executive acting under delegated authority) before making a decision on this proposal.

#### ***Details of the proposals***

##### ***Venlafaxine***

We have entered into a provisional agreement with Wyeth (NZ) Limited for the listing of venlafaxine hydrochloride modified-release capsules (Efexor XR) 37.5 mg in Section B and in Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at a price and subsidy of \$18.64 (ex-manufacturer, excl. GST) per 28 capsules from 1 May 2008. This listing would be subject to the same Special Authority criteria as for the existing strengths of venlafaxine (75 mg and 150 mg).

##### ***Salbutamol with ipratropium bromide aerosol inhaler***

We have also entered into a provisional agreement with Boehringer Ingelheim (NZ) Limited to amend the conditions of listing of salbutamol with ipratropium bromide aerosol inhaler in the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 July 2008 as follows:

- Salbutamol 100 µg with ipratropium bromide 20 µg aerosol inhaler (Combivent) would be listed in Section B and in Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at a price and subsidy of \$13.50 per inhaler (ex-manufacturer, excl. GST); and
- Combivent aerosol inhaler would have protection from delisting and subsidy reduction until no later than 1 July 2012.