

18 June 2008

## **Proposal to remove a number of prescriber and applicant type restrictions in the Blood and Cardiovascular Therapeutic Groups**

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal to amend the funding criteria for a range of products in the Blood and Cardiovascular Therapeutic Groups of the Pharmaceutical Schedule.

This letter outlines the proposals and how you can provide feedback on them.

### ***Proposal summary***

We propose to make the following alterations to Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 September 2008:

- Increase the number of prescribers who are eligible to write subsidised prescriptions for a range of products included in the Blood and Blood Forming Organs and Cardiovascular Therapeutic Groups of the Pharmaceutical Schedule.
- Increase the number of prescribers who are eligible to apply for a number of Special Authorities in the Blood and Blood Forming Organs and Cardiovascular Therapeutic Groups of the Pharmaceutical Schedule.
- Fully subsidise two currently listed strengths of heparin sodium (this would remove the surcharge currently applying to these products).

### ***Feedback sought***

We would welcome your feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback please submit an email, fax or letter by **5 pm, Friday 11 July 2008** to:

Stephen Woodruffe  
Therapeutic Group Manager  
PHARMAC  
PO Box 10-254  
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Email: [stephen.woodruffe@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:stephen.woodruffe@pharmac.govt.nz)

Fax: (04) 460 4995

If you require further information about this proposal you can contact Stephen Woodruffe at [stephen.woodruffe@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:stephen.woodruffe@pharmac.govt.nz) or (04) 916-7555.

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

## **Details of the proposal**

### ***Amendment/removal of a number of prescriber restrictions in the Blood and Blood Forming Organs and Cardiovascular Therapeutic Group***

- It is proposed that the following prescriber restrictions would be amended or removed as described in the following table. These changes would allow the pharmaceuticals to be prescribed by any prescriber where it is appropriate under their scope of practice.

<b>Pharmaceutical</b>	<b>Strength and Formulation</b>	<b>Current restriction</b>	<b>Proposed prescriber restriction</b>
<b>Blood and Blood Forming Organs Therapeutic Group</b>			
Acipimox	250 mg capsule	Retail pharmacy - specialist	None
Aprotinin	Inj 10,000 mcg per ml 50 ml	Hospital pharmacy [HP3] - specialist	None
Calcium polystyrene Sulphonate	Powder	Retail pharmacy - specialist	None
Folic acid	Oral liq 50 mcg per ml	Retail pharmacy-specialist – Specialist must be a paediatrician or paediatric cardiologist	None
Heparin sodium	Inj 25,000 iu per ml, 0.2 ml	Hospital pharmacy [HP3] - specialist	None
Potassium bicarbonate	Tab eff 315 mg with sodium acid phosphate 1.937 g and sodium bicarbonate 350 mg	Retail pharmacy - specialist	None The following note would be inserted “for phosphate supplementation”
Sodium polystyrene sulphonate	Powder	Retail pharmacy - specialist	None
<b>Cardiovascular Therapeutic Group</b>			
Amiloride	Oral liq 1 mg per ml	Retail pharmacy-specialist - paediatrician or paediatric cardiologist	None
Chlorothiazide	Oral liq 50 mg per ml	Retail pharmacy-specialist - paediatrician or paediatric cardiologist	None
Frusemide	Tab 500 mg Infusion 10 mg per ml, 25 ml	Retail pharmacy-specialist	None
Spirolactone	Oral liq 5mg per ml	Retail pharmacy-specialist - paediatrician or paediatric cardiologist	None

*Amendment to the applicant type restriction required for a number of Special Authority applications in the Blood and Blood Forming Organs and Cardiovascular Therapeutic Groups*

- It is proposed that the following applicant type restriction for a number of Special Authorities are amended as described in the table below. This would allow the Special Authorities to be applied for by any prescriber where it is appropriate under their scope of practice. The other Special Authority criteria would remain unchanged.

<b>Pharmaceutical Name</b>	<b>Strength and Formulation</b>	<b>Current applicant type restriction</b>	<b>Proposed applicant</b>
<b>Blood and Blood Forming Organs Therapeutic Group</b>			
Dipyridamole	Tab 25 mg and long-acting 150 mg	Cardiothoracic surgeon, cardiologist or general physician. Renewal GP.	From any relevant practitioner
Erythropoietin alpha	All injection strengths	Renal physician	From any relevant practitioner
Erythropoietin beta	All injection strengths	Relevant specialist	From any relevant practitioner
Pravastatin	Tab 10 mg , 20 mg, 40 mg	Named specialist	From any relevant practitioner
<b>Cardiovascular Therapeutic Group</b>			
Candesartan	All tablet strengths	Relevant specialist/GP	From any relevant practitioner
Midodrine	Tab 2.5 mg, 5 mg	Geriatrician, neurologist or general physician	From any relevant practitioner

*Full funding of two currently listed strengths of heparin sodium*

- The subsidies for the following currently listed strengths of heparin sodium would be increased so that they would be fully subsidised.

<b>Strength and Form</b>	<b>Brand name</b>	<b>Pack Size</b>	<b>Current subsidy (price)</b>	<b>Proposed subsidy and price</b>
Injection 5,000 iu per 5 ml	Multiparin	10	\$27.70 (\$37.45)	\$37.45
Injection 25,000 iu per 0.2 ml	Mayne	5	\$7.50 (\$7.85)	\$7.85