

29 August 2008

## Proposal to remove the dipyridamole Special Authority

### Proposal Summary

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal to remove the Special Authority restriction that currently applies to both strengths of dipyridamole in the Pharmaceutical Schedule. The proposal would result in dipyridamole being available fully funded without restriction.

In addition, PHARMAC has entered into a provisional agreement with Douglas Pharmaceuticals Ltd, which would result in a price reduction for dipyridamole 150 mg long-acting tablet (Pytazen SR).

### *The details of the proposal*

#### *Removal of the dipyridamole Special Authority*

- It is proposed that the dipyridamole Special Authority restriction (as below) is removed (this would remove all restrictions on the subsidisation of dipyridamole).

**Initial application - (Conditions other than transient ischaemic episodes)** only from a cardiothoracic surgeon, cardiologist or general physician. Approvals valid without further renewal unless notified for applications meeting the following criteria:

Either:

- 1 Patients with prosthetic heart valves - as an adjunct to oral anticoagulation for prophylaxis of thromboembolism; or
- 2 Patients after coronary artery vein bypass graft - as an adjunct to aspirin or as monotherapy for patients who are aspirin intolerant.

Note

Aspirin intolerant patients are defined as those with aspirin induced asthma, urticaria, or anaphylaxi, or those with significant aspirin induced bleeding, excluding bruising

**Initial application - (Transient ischaemic episodes)** only from a neurologist, neuro surgeon, cardiologist, vascular surgeon or general physician. Approvals valid without further renewal unless notified where patients who continue to have transient ischaemic episodes despite aspirin therapy or have transient ischaemic episodes and are aspirin intolerant.

Note

Aspirin intolerant patients are defined as those with aspirin induced asthma, urticaria, or anaphylaxi, or those with significant aspirin induced bleeding, excluding bruising

**Renewal - (Existing 2 year approvals)** only from a general practitioner or relevant specialist. Approvals valid without further renewal unless notified where the treatment remains appropriate and the patient is benefiting from treatment.

#### *Price and subsidy changes*

- The price and subsidy for the Pytazen SR brand of dipyridamole 150 mg long-acting tablet would reduce from \$11.52 to \$11.00 per 60 tablet pack.
- The subsidy for the Persantin brand of dipyridamole 25 mg tablets would be increased and it would become fully funded at \$8.36 per 84 tablet pack.

***Feedback sought***

We would welcome your feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback please submit an email, fax or letter by **5 pm, Friday 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2008** to:

Stephen Woodruffe  
Therapeutic Group Manager  
PHARMAC  
PO Box 10-254  
Wellington 6143

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 as above or on (04) 916-7555.

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