

29 September 2008

Proposal for fluorouracil sodium 5% cream (Efudix)

Proposal summary

PHARMAC and Pacific Pharmaceuticals have entered into a provisional agreement that would result in fully funding fluorouracil sodium 5% cream (Efudix). PHARMAC is also proposing to remove the "Specialist" restriction on the listing of fluorouracil sodium 5% cream, which would mean that prescriptions written by non-specialist practitioners would no longer require a specialist endorsement for subsidy.

Details of the Proposal

Efudix would remain listed in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule and the price would be reduced and the subsidy increased so that it would be fully subsidised with effect from 1 December 2008:

Pharmaceutical Name (Brand)	Strength and Form	Pack Size	Current subsidy (current price)	Proposed price and subsidy
Fluorouracil sodium (Efudix)	5% cream	20 g	\$23.89 (\$32.71)	\$26.49

(all prices are ex-manufacturer, exclusive of GST)

- Efudix would have protection from subsidy reduction and delisting until 1 December 2012.
- The "Retail pharmacy-Specialist" restriction on Efudix would be removed.
- Efudix would be listed in Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule.

Feedback sought

We welcome your feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback please submit an email, fax or letter by **5 pm, Thursday 16 October 2008** to:

Mike Bignall
 Therapeutic Group Manager
 PHARMAC

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

Background information

Efudix is used as a topical treatment for superficial pre-malignant and malignant skin lesions. The Pharmacology and Therapeutic Advisory Committee (PTAC) has considered the Specialist restriction requirement for fluorouracil sodium and recommended that it be removed.