

30 September 2008

Changes to the range of supplements used for patients with phenylketonuria

We have entered into an agreement with Nutricia that means we will add Lophlex LQ and additional Loprofin products, a supplement and special food for phenylketonuria (PKU), to the range of subsidised products from 1 October 2008.

The agreement also covers a range of existing products supplied by Nutricia for PKU.

The changes mean that there will be a reduced-volume (Lophlex LQ) supplement for PKU available, and some additional phenyl free pastas.

Details of the decision

Lophlex LQ will be listed in the "Supplements for PKU" section of Section D of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at the following prices and subsidies:

Chemical	Brand	Form	Pack size	Price	Subsidy
Aminoacid formula without phenylalanine	Lophlex LQ	Liquid (citrus, berry, orange)	125 ml OP	\$31.20	\$31.20
Aminoacid formula without phenylalanine	Lophlex LQ	Liquid (citrus, berry, orange)	62.5 ml OP	\$15.65	\$15.65

Loprofin will be listed in the "Foods for PKU" section of Section D of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at the following prices and subsidies:

Chemical	Brand	Form	Pack size	Price	Subsidy
Phenyl free pasta	Loprofin	Animal Pasta Shapes	500 g	\$11.91	\$10.65
Phenyl free pasta	Loprofin	Lasagne	250 g	\$5.95	\$5.33
Phenyl free pasta	Loprifin	Penne	500 g	\$11.91	\$10.65

The following currently listed products will remain subsidised:

Product	Presentation	Brand name	Pack size	Current price and subsidy	New price and subsidy
Amino Acid Formula without Phenylalanine	Tablets	Phlexy 10	75 OP	\$82.50	\$99.00
Amino Acid Formula without Phenylalanine	Sachets (tropical)	Phlexy 10	30	\$270.00	\$324.00
Amino Acid Formula without Phenylalanine	Sachets (pineapple/vanilla)	Minaphlex	30 OP	\$320.10	\$330.10
Amino Acid Formula without Phenylalanine	Infant formula	XP Analog LCP	400 g OP	\$145.60	\$174.72
Amino Acid Formula without Phenylalanine	Powder (orange and unflavoured)	XP Maxamaid	500 g OP	\$195.00	\$221.00
Amino Acid Formula without Phenylalanine	Powder (orange and unflavoured)	XP Maxamum	500 g OP	\$305.00	\$320.00
Amino Acid Formula without Phenylalanine	Liquid (forest berries and tropical)	Easiphen	250 ml	\$22.50	\$30.00

What feedback was received?

This change was the subject of a consultation letter dated 31 July 2008. We appreciate the feedback we received and acknowledge the time people took to respond. All consultation responses received by 13 August 2008 were considered in their entirety before making a decision on the proposed changes.

Responders to the consultation letter commented that they did support the listing of Lophlex LQ as it is a low-volume alternative and also ready to drink. It could be useful for patients needing a phenylalanine-free drink while away from home. The different serving sizes could decrease wastage for patients needing a smaller volume. The proposal was approved by PHARMAC's Board to be effective from 1 October 2008.

More information

Of you have any queries about these changes please contact the PHARMAC helpline on 0800 66 00 50 (9 am to 5 pm weekdays).