

23 October 2008

Goldshield levothyroxine subsidised from 1 November 2008

PHARMAC is pleased to announce that the Goldshield brand of levothyroxine will be fully subsidised from 1 November 2008.

Details of the decision

From 1 November 2008, the Goldshield brand of levothyroxine, supplied by Boucher & Muir, will be listed in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at the following prices and subsidies:

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Price and subsidy
Levothyroxine	Tab 50 µg	Goldshield	28	\$1.71
Levothyroxine	Tab 100 µg	Goldshield	28	\$1.78

We understand that stock of the Goldshield product will be available to pharmacies in time for 1 November 2008.

Feedback received

This proposal was the subject of a consultation letter dated 30 September 2008. We appreciate all of the feedback that we received and acknowledge the time people took to respond. All consultation responses received by 14 October 2008 were considered in their entirety before making a decision on the proposal.

Theme	Response
Some responders requested that PHARMAC investigate listing lower strength tablets or an oral liquid formulation for paediatric patients.	PHARMAC notes that alternate day dosing of levothyroxine can achieve smaller dosing increments, and that extemporaneous compounding of levothyroxine is possible. However, PHARMAC remains open to listing alternative presentations of this product.
Some responders requested that PHARMAC also consider listing the Synthroid brand of levothyroxine.	PHARMAC remains open to the possibility of listing of other presentations and brands of levothyroxine.

More information

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