

14 November 2008

Proposal to fully fund hyoscine (scopolamine) patches

Proposal summary

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal to fully fund the antinausea treatment hyoscine (scopolamine) patches (Scopoderm TTS) under the existing Special Authority criteria from 1 January 2009.

Patients who meet the Special Authority criteria currently pay a manufacturer's surcharge of approximately \$2.60 per patch (including GST and pharmacy/wholesaler mark-ups). If this proposal is approved, patients would no longer need to pay the surcharge.

This proposal is part of a provisional agreement with Novartis Consumer Health Australasia Pty Ltd that also involves a price reduction for hyoscine patches.

Further details of the proposal can be found below and on the following page.

Feedback sought

We welcome your feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback please submit an email, fax or letter by **4 pm, Friday 28 November 2008** to:

Geraldine MacGibbon Email: geraldine.macgibbon@pharmac.govt.nz
 Therapeutic Group Manager Fax: (04) 460 4995
 PHARMAC
 PO Box 10-254
 Wellington 6143

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 under delegated authority).

The details of the proposal

- We have entered into a provisional agreement with Novartis Consumer Health Australasia Pty Ltd to reduce the price and raise the subsidy applying to hyoscine (scopolamine) patches in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 January 2009 as follows (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Pharmaceutical	Brand	Form and Strength	Pack Size	Current subsidy (and price)	Proposed price & subsidy
Hyoscine (scopolamine)	Scopoderm TTS	Patch 1.5 mg	2	\$9.56 (\$12.40)	\$11.95

- Scopoderm TTS would also be listed in Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 January 2009 at a price of \$11.95 per pack of two patches (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST).
- Hyoscine patches would remain listed in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule subject to the current Special Authority criteria.
- Scopoderm TTS would have protection from subsidy reduction until 1 July 2013.

Background information

The Analgesic Subcommittee of PTAC has recommended fully funding hyoscine patches under the existing Special Authority criteria, noting that there is no funded equivalent product and that there is a relative lack of fully funded non-oral presentations of antinausea agents.