

18 November 2008

## Funding of a new brand of adrenaline (1:1000) injection

### *Proposal summary*

PHARMAC is pleased to announce the approval of the funding of Aspen Pharmacare Australia Pty Limited's brand of adrenaline 1 in 1,000, 1 ml solution for injection (Aspen Adrenaline). Aspen Adrenaline will be available fully subsidised on the Pharmaceutical Schedule and under a Practitioner's Supply Order (PSO).

### *Details of the Decision*

Aspen Adrenaline will be listed in Sections B and H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule with effect from 1 December 2008 as follows (with up to 5 injections available on PSO):

Pharmaceutical Name (Brand)	Strength and Form	Pack Size	Proposed price and subsidy
Adrenaline (Aspen Adrenaline)	1 in 1,000, 1 ml solution for injection (ampoule)	5 x 1 ml ampoules	\$4.98

(The price is ex-manufacturer, exclusive of GST)

### *Feedback Received*

This listing was the subject of a consultation letter dated 2 October 2008. We appreciate all the feedback that was received and acknowledge the time that people took to respond. The consultation responses raised the following issues:

Issues raised in consultation	PHARMAC Comment
In 2007 there was a national shortage of adrenaline 1:1000. A second supplier would be an advantage for this product. Recommendations against sole supply were received.	Competition between pharmaceutical companies is important to PHARMAC's activity. A move towards sole supply is not currently under consideration. The fact that adrenaline is an important emergency medicine would be considered carefully should sole supply such a move be considered in future.
A second supplier is problematic because having only one brand of adrenaline results in easy recognition and less confusion.	While two brands of adrenaline will be available and funded, clinicians and DHB's could choose to only stock one brand.
Information regarding the vial colour was requested as there have been some near misses involving product selection errors exacerbated by the similar appearance of the current adrenaline ampoules to other products.	The colour of the vial is brown (or "dark"). Its actual description is Ampoule, glass, Type I, dark glass, 1 ml, serigraphed ampoule marked with break-ring.

### *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).