

27 November 2008

## Proposal to subsidise non-latex condoms

PHARMAC has entered into a provisional agreement with SSL New Zealand Limited for the listing of non-latex condoms on the Pharmaceutical Schedule and for an expansion of the range of subsidised Durex brand latex condoms.

In summary, the proposal would result in:

- non-latex condoms being fully subsidised for people with a latex allergy; and
- new presentations of Durex brand latex condoms being subsidised.

### Feedback sought

We welcome your feedback on this proposal; to provide feedback please submit it in writing by **4 pm, Friday 19 December 2008** to:

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### Details of the proposal

PHARMAC would list non-latex condoms in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule on availability following regulatory approval at the following price and subsidy (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Chemical	Formulation	Brand	Pack size	Price and subsidy
Condoms, non-latex	56 mm, shaped	Durex Avanti Ultima	10	\$16.60

Because of the significant difference in prices of latex condoms and non-latex condoms, subsidised access to non-latex condoms would be restricted by the following Special Authority criteria:

#### Special Authority for subsidy

**Initial application** by any relevant practitioner. Approvals valid without further renewal unless notified where the patient has a documented history of latex allergy.

Durex Avanti Ultima would be subject to a rebate arrangement between PHARMAC and SSL New Zealand Limited and, in contrast to latex condoms, would not be available on a Practitioner's Supply Order.

PHARMAC would also list the following new formulations of Durex latex condoms from 1 February 2008 in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule (prices are ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

<b>Chemical</b>	<b>Formulation</b>	<b>Brand</b>	<b>Pack size</b>	<b>Price and subsidy</b>
Condoms	56 mm extra strength	Durex Extra Safe	144	\$13.36
Condoms	56 mm	Durex Select Flavours	144	\$13.36

### **Background**

Condoms are an effective method for reducing the spread of sexually-transmitted infections, and for preventing unplanned pregnancies. However all currently subsidised condoms are latex-based, and are therefore not suitable for people with a serious latex allergy. The price of non-latex condoms is relatively high, in comparison with the latex variety, and therefore there may be a significant financial barrier to use of condoms for some people with a latex allergy.