

29 January 2009

Subsidy and Price reduction proposal relating to Acitretin, Bezafibrate, Diazepam and Disulfiram

PHARMAC and Actavis Australia Ltd have entered into a provisional agreement relating to the supply of acitretin (Neotigason), bezafibrate (Bezalip Retard), diazepam (Stesolid) and disulfiram (Antabuse).

In summary, the proposal would result in:

- a reduction in the price for Neotigason, Bezalip Retard and Stesolid from 1 April 2009 (including additional savings from a rebate to the new price for subsidies paid from 1 December 2008 until 1 April 2009);
- subsidy and delisting protection for Neotigason and Bezalip Retard until 30 June 2012.

Feedback sought

PHARMAC welcomes feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback, please submit it in writing by **Friday 13 February 2009** to:

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 Therapeutic Group Manager
 PHARMAC

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 Fax: 04 460 4995
 Post: PO Box 10 254, Wellington 6143

All feedback received before the closing date will be considered by PHARMAC's Board (or Chief Executive acting under delegated authority) prior to making a decision on this proposal.

Details of the proposal

- The following pharmaceuticals would be listed in Section B and in Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at the following prices and subsidies from 1 April 2009:

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Current price and subsidy	Proposed price and subsidy
Acitretin	Cap 10 mg	Neotigason	100	\$94.75	\$75.80
Acitretin	Cap 25 mg	Neotigason	100	\$203.70	\$162.96
Bezafibrate	Tab long-acting 400 mg	Bezalip Retard	30	\$7.60	\$5.70
Diazepam	Rectal tube 5 mg	Stesolid	5	\$27.83	\$25.05
Diazepam	Rectal tube 10 mg	Stesolid	5	\$33.89	\$30.50
Disulfiram	Tab 200 mg	Antabuse	100	\$24.30	\$24.30

- Neotigason and Bezalip Retard would have subsidy protection until 30 June 2012.

Background Information

Acitretin is a retinoid drug used for oral treatment of severe cases of psoriasis and of disorders of keratinization.

Bezafibrate is a fibrate drug used for the treatment of hyperlipidaemia.

Diazepam rectal preparations are used to treat severe anxiety, agitation and convulsions caused by epilepsy or fever.

Disulfiram is a drug used to support the treatment of chronic alcoholism by producing an acute sensitivity to alcohol.