

Recent Pharmaceutical Schedule Changes

Nicotine Replacement Therapy – available on prescription

Nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) will be subsidised on either a prescription or a Quit Card from 1 September 2009. This means prescribers will be able to write a prescription for subsidised NRT as an alternative to using Quit Cards.

NRT will be dispensed in one 4-week quantity, with one repeat (8 weeks in total) as per the current NRT dispensing process. Detailed information will be sent to you explaining the changes.

Betaloc CR – removal of endorsement and subsidy reduction

The endorsement criteria that applies to metoprolol succinate (Betaloc CR) long-acting tablets will be removed from 1 September 2009. All patients will be able to receive Betaloc CR metoprolol tablets, fully subsidised, from 1 September 2009. The subsidy for AFT-Metoprolol CR long-acting tablets will remain unchanged until 1 July 2010, when it will be reference priced to Betaloc CR.

Cyclosporin A – removal of Special Authority

The Special Authority applying to cyclosporin A will be removed from 1 September 2009.

Tri-phasic oral contraceptives

Both suppliers (Wyeth and Bayer) of subsidised tri-phasic oral contraceptives intend to discontinue supply within the next 12 months. The Hormone and Contraceptive Subcommittee of PTAC considered that Brevinor 1 would be an appropriate alternative.

Clopixol tablets – new listing

The antipsychotic Clopixol (zuclopenthixol hydrochloride) 10 mg tablets will be listed fully subsidised without restriction from 1 September 2009.

Insulin syringes and needles – new listings

A new range of insulin pen needles will be subsidised from 1 September 2009. The DM Ject brand of insulin syringes, disposable with attached needle, will be listed fully subsidised from 1 September 2009.

Please note this is not a complete reference to all changes occurring from 1 September 2009, for the full reference, please consult your Update to the Pharmaceutical Schedule.

Special Authority Queries: **0800 243 666**

General Questions: **0800 66 00 50** (9am – 5pm Monday to Friday)

Newsletter feedback: email rachel.mackay@pharmac.govt.nz

PHARMAC
Pharmaceutical Management Agency

“When in doubt, prescribe generically”

New Zealand Government