

FACSIMILE

To **All New Zealand Pharmacies, IPA Pharmacy Facilitators
and Wholesalers**

Fax **Autodial**

From **PHARMAC**

Subject **Close Control monthly – diclofenac sodium**

Date **Friday 11 September 2009** No of pages **1**

Dear Pharmacist / Wholesaler

Due to a short supply of diclofenac sodium tablets long-acting 75 mg and 100 mg and tablets EC 25 mg and 50 mg, PHARMAC's Acting Chief Executive has approved the following temporary provision for stat prescriptions.

Diclofenac sodium tablets long-acting 75 mg and 100 mg, and tablets EC 25 mg and 50 mg

- From 11 September 2009 until further notice, a prescription for diclofenac sodium tablets long-acting 75 mg or 100 mg, or tablets EC 25 mg or 50 mg will not require annotation by the prescriber to be dispensed Close Control monthly.
- From 11 September 2009 until further notice, Pharmacists will be reimbursed all dispensing fees for prescriptions for diclofenac sodium tablets 75 mg and 100 mg, and tablets EC 25 mg and 50 mg that are dispensed Close Control monthly.
- Upon notice of the ending of the Close Control period, the remainder of repeats for a prescription for diclofenac sodium tablets 75 mg and 100 mg, and tablets EC 25 mg and 50 mg first dispensed Close Control monthly can either be (at the discretion of the pharmacist and stock availability)
 - completed Close Control monthly, or
 - dispensed stat where appropriate.
- Pharmacists will need to annotate any prescriptions dispensed Close Control for audit purposes.
- PHARMAC is investigating the possibility of listing an alternate brand(s) of diclofenac sodium but will advise any decision separately.

If you have any questions regarding the above, please contact PHARMAC on 0800 66 00 50 (9.00am – 5.00pm, Monday to Friday).

Yours sincerely



Kaye Wilson
Schedule Analyst

This facsimile message contains information that is confidential and which may be subject to legal privilege. If you are not the intended recipient, you must not peruse, use, disseminate, distribute or copy this message. If you have received this message in error, please notify us immediately by facsimile or telephone (call us collect) and return the original message to us by mail. Thank you.