

29 October 2009

Proposal for Arrow-Topiramate and Arrow-Alprazolam

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal to fund a new brand of topiramate tablets and reduce the price and subsidy for alprazolam through a provisional agreement with Arrow Pharmaceuticals (NZ) Limited.

Details of the proposal can be found below and on the following page.

Feedback sought

PHARMAC welcomes feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback, please submit it in writing by **4 pm on Thursday 12 November 2009** to:

Geraldine MacGibbon	Email: geraldine.macgibbon@pharmac.govt.nz
Therapeutic Group Manager	Fax: (04) 460 4995
PHARMAC	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

Funding of Arrow-Topiramate

Arrow-Topiramate would be listed in Section B and in Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 April 2010 at the following prices and subsidies (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Pharmaceutical	Form and Strength	Brand	Pack Size	Proposed price and subsidy
Topiramate	Tab 25 mg	Arrow-Topiramate	60	\$11.07
Topiramate	Tab 50 mg	Arrow-Topiramate	60	\$18.81
Topiramate	Tab 100 mg	Arrow-Topiramate	60	\$31.99
Topiramate	Tab 200 mg	Arrow-Topiramate	60	\$55.19

Arrow-Topiramate would have protection from delisting and subsidy reduction until 1 July 2012.

Effects of the proposal on other subsidised brands of topiramate

This proposal to list Arrow-Topiramate would not affect the subsidy for any other brand of topiramate that is listed in the Pharmaceutical Schedule at 1 April 2010 – such brands would

remain fully funded for at least the duration of the relevant subsidy protection applying to each.

Subsidy protection end dates for the various brands of topiramate for which funding has been approved are as follows:

<i>Brand (Supplier)</i>	<i>Subsidy Protection End Date</i>
Topamax tablets (Janssen-Cilag)	1 July 2012
Apo-Topiramate tablets (Apotex NZ)*	1 July 2012

*will be listed from 1 December 2009

Reduction in price and subsidy for Arrow-Alprazolam

The price and subsidy for Arrow-Alprazolam, currently listed in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule, would be amended from 1 January 2010 as follows (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Pharmaceutical	Form and Strength	Brand	Pack Size	Current price and subsidy	Proposed price and subsidy
Alprazolam	Tab 250 µg	Arrow-Alprazolam	50	\$3.25	\$3.15
Alprazolam	Tab 500 µg	Arrow-Alprazolam	50	\$4.30	\$4.10
Alprazolam	Tab 1 mg	Arrow-Alprazolam	50	\$7.85	\$7.25

From 1 January 2010 Arrow-Alprazolam would no longer have Sole Supply Status. Arrow-Alprazolam would have protection from delisting and subsidy reduction until 1 July 2013.

Background information

This proposal is a result of Arrow Pharmaceuticals (NZ) Limited submitting to PHARMAC an commercial proposal as an alternative to tendering. A request for alternative commercial proposals was made to all pharmaceutical suppliers on 21 August 2009 as part of the consultation on the proposed 2009/10 Multi-product Tender. Alprazolam was proposed for inclusion in the 2009/10 Multi-product Tender, and if this proposal is approved it will not be included.