

23 November 2009

## Proposal for Diclax SR (diclofenac sodium long-acting tablets)

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal for ongoing subsidy for Diclax SR (diclofenac sodium long-acting tablets) through a provisional agreement with Douglas Pharmaceuticals Limited.

PHARMAC recently made decisions to list two strengths of Diclax SR (diclofenac sodium long-acting 75 mg and long-acting 100 mg tablets) in the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 December 2009 (both strengths in 500-tab packs) and from 1 October 2009 (the 75 mg strength only in a 30-tab pack). These decisions were made to cover a potential out-of-stock situation on Apotex's brand of diclofenac sodium 75 mg and 100 mg long-acting tablets. The listings of Douglas' products were intended to be temporary, with stock expected to last until about April 2010.

This current proposal is for ongoing subsidy of Diclax SR beyond 1 April 2010, at the following prices and subsidies (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Pharmaceutical	Form and Strength	Brand	Pack Size	Proposed price and subsidy
Diclofenac sodium	Tab long-acting 75 mg	Diclax SR	500	\$32.80
Diclofenac sodium	Tab long-acting 100 mg	Diclax SR	500	\$63.22

Both strengths of Diclax SR in the 500-tab pack size would have protection from delisting and subsidy reduction until 1 April 2012.

This proposal would not affect the listing of Diclax SR long-acting 75 mg tablets in the 30-tab pack size, which will be delisted when current stock is exhausted.

### Feedback sought

PHARMAC welcomes feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback, please submit it in writing by **4 pm on Monday 7 December 2009** to:

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 Therapeutic Group Manager  
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All feedback received by 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.