

15 December 2009

Hydrocortisone 1% cream (Pharmacy Health) funding approved

PHARMAC is pleased to announce the approval of a supply agreement with API Consumer Brands for hydrocortisone 1% cream (Pharmacy Health) in a pack size of 100 g.

The current supplier, CSL Biotherapies, is discontinuing the currently funded 100 g pack size of hydrocortisone 1% cream (Lemnis Fatty Cream HC) once its remaining stock is depleted (anticipated to be sometime in April 2010).

The listing of the Pharmacy Health brand will ensure that a funded mild topical corticosteroid, used to control eczema, dermatitis and many other skin conditions, will remain available in a 100 g pack size.

Summary of the decision

The Pharmacy Health brand of hydrocortisone 1% cream will be fully funded and listed in Section B and Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule, from 1 April 2010, at a price and subsidy of \$3.75 per 100 g (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST).

If you have any queries about this funding decision you can call our toll free number (9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday) on 0800 66 00 50.

Feedback received

We appreciate the feedback that we received in response to our consultation and acknowledge the time people took to respond. Responses were supportive towards the continued listing of a 100 g pack size of hydrocortisone on the Pharmaceutical Schedule.

We note that the 500 g Pharmacy Health brand, which is already supplied by API Consumer Brands on the Pharmaceutical Schedule, would remain fully funded.