

15 February 2010

Proposal to fund bisacodyl suppositories (Dulcolax)

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal to fund a new brand of bisacodyl 10 mg suppositories (Dulcolax) and fully fund the 5 mg strength (Dulcolax) on the Pharmaceutical Schedule.

This proposal would result in Dulcolax being listed in Section B and Section H of the Pharmaceutical from 1 April 2010 at the following price and subsidy (ex-manufacturer and ex-GST):

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Price and subsidy
Bisacodyl	Suppository 5 mg	Dulcolax	6	\$3.00
	Suppository 10 mg	Dulcolax	6	\$3.00

Feedback sought

PHARMAC welcomes feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback, please submit it in writing by **5 pm Friday 26 February 2010** to:

Mike Bignall	Email: mike.bignall@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.

Background

Bisacodyl suppositories are a stimulant laxative.

PHARMAC and Boehringer Ingelheim NZ Limited have entered into a provisional agreement relating to the supply of bisacodyl suppositories (Dulcolax).

Stocks of the currently fully funded 10 mg suppository brand (Fleet), as supplied by Baxter, have been depleted and the supplier has recently notified PHARMAC that this brand will no longer be supplied.

This proposal would ensure that a suitable alternative brand is funded to ensure continuity of supply of a 10 mg strength of the suppository and would also remove the current manufacturers' surcharge for patients that applies to the 5 mg strength of the Dulcolax suppository.