

18 March 2010
April 2010 Pharmaceutical Schedule Dispatch

This document is provided to pharmacists as an early notification of the changes to be announced in the **April 2010** Update to the Pharmaceutical Schedule. Please notify PHARMAC (0800 66 00 50) to change or remove your contact details.

New listings

- Bisacodyl (Dulcolax) suppos 10 mg – Only on a prescription (p'code: 270385)
- Docusate sodium tab 50 mg (Laxofast 50) (p'code: 2350394) and tab 120 mg (Laxofast 120) (p'code: 2350386)
- Ambrisentan (Volibris) tab 5 mg (p'code: 2349353) and 10 mg (p'code: 2349345) – Special Authority – Hospital pharmacy [HP1]
- Hydrocortisone (Pharmacy Health) crm 1%, 100 g – Only on a prescription (p'code: 2339765)
- Danazol (Azol) cap 200 mg – Retail pharmacy – Specialist (p'code: 2313006)
- Topiramate (Arrow-Topiramate) tab 25 mg (p'code: 2350408), 50 mg (p'code: 2350416), 100 mg (p'code: 2350424) and 200 mg (p'code: 2350432)

Changes to restrictions

- Imiquimod (Aldara) crm 5% sachet – amended Special Authority criteria
- Somatropin (Genotropin) inj cartridge 16 iu (5.3 mg) and 36 iu (12 mg) – amended presentation description
- Nystatin (Nilstat) tab 500,000 u – Section 29 status removal
- Influenza vaccine (Fluvax, Influvac and Vaxigrip) – amended access criteria
- Alendronate for osteoporosis (Fosamax, Fosamax Plus) – amended access criteria
- Gabapentin (Nupentin) cap 100 mg, 300 mg and 400 mg – amended Special Authority criteria
- Vigabatrin (Sabril) tab 500 mg – amended Special Authority criteria
- Travoprost (Travatan) eye drops 0.004% - additional subsidy by endorsement

Increased subsidy

Chemical	Presentation	Fully subsidised brands
Bisacodyl	Suppos 5 mg	Dulcolax
Mitomycin C	Inj 10 mg Inj 1 mg for ECP	Mitomycin-C Baxter
Chloramphenicol	Eye drops 0.5%	Chlorsig

Decreased subsidy

Chemical	Presentation	Fully subsidised brands	Partially subsidised brands
Dihydrocodeine tartrate	Tab long-acting 60 mg	DHC Continus	
Docusate sodium with sennosides	Tab 50 mg with total sennosides 8 mg	Laxsol	
Hydroxocobalamin	Inj 1 mg per ml, 1 ml	ABM Hydroxocobalamin	Neo-B12
Letrozole	Tab 2.5 mg	Letara	Femara
Promethazine hydrochloride	Oral liq 5 mg per 5 ml	Promethazine Winthrop Elixir	Phenergan

Somatropin	Inj cartridge 16 iu (5.3 mg) Inj cartridge 36 iu (12 mg)	Genotropin Genotropin	
Tranexamic acid	Tab 500 mg	Cyklokapron	
Travoprost	Eye drops 0.004%		Travatan*
Zidovudine (AZT)	Cap 100 mg Oral liq 10 mg per ml	Retrovir Retrovir	

* Additional subsidy by endorsement available for Travatan eye drops

NB. For further details and magnitude of the above subsidy changes, please consult the online version of the Update to the Pharmaceutical Schedule at: www.pharmac.govt.nz/healthpros/Schedule.

Sumatriptan – smaller pack size continued availability

Arrow Pharmaceuticals has informed PHARMAC that it still has significant stock holdings of the smaller pack sizes of sumatriptan tab 50 mg (4 tablet pack) and 100 mg (2 tablet pack) due to be delisted from 1 May 2010.

PHARMAC staff intend to recommend that these pack sizes continue to be listed in the Pharmaceutical Schedule at their current prices and subsidies until stock is exhausted. These pack sizes would, therefore, not be delisted from 1 May 2010 as initially notified.

Nestle special food – discontinuations

The following products are being discontinued by Nestle Healthcare Nutrition (these have not been included in the Update due to continued discussions between Nestle and PHARMAC) from the Pharmaceutical Schedule. It is expected that stock of the following products will run out within the next month:

Products to be delisted	Listed alternatives
Resource Plus; all flavours	Alternative oral feed 1.5 Kcal/ml
Resource Diabetic; Strawberry	Resource Diabetic Vanilla
Isosource HN 250 ml can and 1000 ml	Alternative enteral feed 1 Kcal/ml
Fibersource HN 250 ml can and 1000 ml	Alternative Enteral feed with fibre 1 Kcal/ml
Isosource 1.5 250 ml and 1000 ml	Alternative Enteral feed with fibre 1.5 Kcal/ml

*Note: The above table only refers to Nestle discontinuations of products currently listed in Section D of the Pharmaceutical Schedule

Special Foods listed under the same Special Authority criteria are interchangeable without a new Special Authority application being required.