

30 July 2010

Proposal to list a new brand of sodium chloride in Section H

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal to list the Freeflex brand of sodium chloride 0.9% infusion in Part II of Section H from 1 November 2010. The proposal does not include Hospital Supply Status, so DHB Hospitals would have discretion over which brand or brands they purchase. As part of a proposed agreement with the supplier, Fresenius Kabi Australia Pty Limited, PHARMAC would agree not to delist Freeflex prior to 1 July 2012.

Feedback sought

PHARMAC welcomes feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback, please submit it in writing by **Friday, 13 August 2010** to:

Andrew Davies	Email: andrew.davies@pharmac.govt.nz
Procurement Initiatives Manager	
PHARMAC	Fax: 04 460 4995
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

The following products would be listed in Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 November 2010:

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Price
Sodium chloride	Inf 0.9%	Freeflex	500 ml	\$1.70
Sodium chloride	Inf 0.9%	Freeflex	1000 ml	\$1.71

PHARMAC would not delist Freeflex prior to 1 July 2012. We note that PHARMAC is currently unable to implement Hospital Supply Status for any brand of sodium chloride until 1 July 2012 due to an existing agreement with Baxter Healthcare.

Background

In 2009 PHARMAC ran an RFP for intravenous fluids. A non-exclusive agreement with Baxter Healthcare was entered into last year covering much of the range of fluids. We also received a proposal from Fresenius for a smaller set of fluids. Fresenius has spent some time discussing aspects of product acceptability with a number of DHBs, and as a result is making some changes to its labeling. It is now ready to launch its sodium chloride 500 ml and 1000 ml bags.