

27 August 2010

## Proposal regarding insulin pen needles and disposable insulin syringes

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal to:

- fully fund a new, finer gauge insulin pen needle (32 g x 4 mm); and
- amend the terms of supply for the existing range of BD insulin pen needles and BD disposable insulin syringes.

Further details of the proposals can be found below and on the following page.

### Feedback sought

PHARMAC welcomes feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback, please submit it in writing by **Friday, 10 September 2010** to:

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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.

### Details of the proposal

PHARMAC has entered into a provisional agreement with Becton Dickinson Limited (BD) to list a new gauge of insulin pen needles in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 November 2010 at the following price and subsidy (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Chemical	Size	Brand	Pack size	Price and subsidy
Insulin pen needles	32 g x 4 mm	B-D Micro-Fine	100	\$10.50

It is proposed that the existing range of BD insulin pen needles and BD disposable insulin syringes listed in Part B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule would also be listed in Part II of Section H with no change in price or pack size.

The current restrictions that apply to insulin pen needles and disposable insulin syringes would remain and would be applied to the listing of the 32 g x 4 mm insulin pen needles.

The entire range of BD insulin pen needles (including the 32 g x 4 mm insulin pen needles) and disposable insulin syringes would have protection from delisting and subsidy reduction until 1 January 2013.

## **Background to the proposal**

Insulin pen needles and disposable insulin syringes are subsidised for patients using insulin for the treatment of diabetes mellitus.

A range of sizes of insulin pen needles are already fully funded on the Pharmaceutical Schedule. The funding of the 32 g x 4 mm insulin pen needle would result in it being the shortest and thinnest insulin pen needle funded in New Zealand. The BD insulin pen needles are compatible with all insulin pens used in New Zealand.