

3 September 2010

## Agreement with Multichem approved

PHARMAC is pleased to announce the approval of an agreement with Multichem for sodium chloride. This was the subject of a consultation letter dated 9 August 2010<sup>1</sup>.

In summary, the effect of the decision is that Multichem's brand of sodium chloride 0.9% 5ml and 10 ml ampoules will be listed in Section B and Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 January 2011, and the price of the 20 ml ampoule will increase from 1 October 2010.

### Details of the proposal

Following notice from AstraZeneca that it was unable to supply sodium chloride 5 ml and 10 ml ampoules beyond 1 October 2010, PHARMAC has entered a provisional agreement with Multichem. The following products will be listed in Section B and Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at the following price and subsidies:

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Price and Subsidy	Effective Date
Sodium chloride	Inj 0.9%, 5 ml	Multichem	50	\$10.85	1 January 2011
Sodium chloride	Inj 0.9%, 10 ml	Multichem	50	\$11.50	1 January 2011
Sodium chloride	Inj 0.9%, 20 ml*	Multichem	20	\$8.41	1 October 2010

\* Sodium chloride inj 0.9% 20 ml is already listed – the price & subsidy would be increased as set out in the table.

Pfizer has indicated it is intending to supply its brand from 1 October 2010 subject to it updating its registration for its Australian product.

### Feedback received

We appreciate all of the feedback that we received and acknowledge the time people took to respond. All consultation responses received by 14 August 2010 were considered in their entirety in making a decision on the proposed changes.

Most responses were supportive of the proposal. Some did express some concern about problems that had been experienced with Multichem's water for injection, and supported DHBs having the option of purchasing other brands.

### More information

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

<sup>1</sup> [www.pharmac.govt.nz/2010/08/09](http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/2010/08/09)