

# Brand change notification

## **cilazapril**

(Inhibace changing to Zapril)

Dear patient,

Recently PHARMAC made a decision to change the brand of the blood pressure medicine cilazapril that will be subsidised. This means that soon the subsidised brand of cilazapril will change from Inhibace to Zapril.

The information below may help answer some questions you may have about this change.

### **Will the medicine work the same?**

Yes.

Your medicine itself is not changing, only the brand. Zapril contains the same amount of active ingredient (cilazapril) as Inhibace. This means you should get the same benefit from taking Zapril as you do from taking Inhibace.

Medsafe, the agency that approve medicines for use in New Zealand, approved Zapril after carefully considering the safety and effectiveness of this medicine.

You shouldn't notice any difference in how you feel after taking Zapril compared with Inhibace. **If you do notice any major changes or side effects, please talk with your doctor about it.**

### **When will the change occur?**

From **1 October 2010**, Zapril will be available fully subsidised. If stock of Inhibace is still available it will be available fully funded.

From **1 December 2010**, if stock of Inhibace is still available you may have to pay an extra part payment if you want to keep taking the Inhibace brand. Zapril will remain fully subsidised.

From **1 March 2011**, only Zapril will be available fully subsidised. Inhibace will no longer be subsidised.





Zapril



Inhibace

## Will my current brand be available after 1 March 2011?

PHARMAC cannot guarantee whether Inhibace will be available after 1 March 2011 as this will be the decision of the pharmaceutical supplier (Roche). After 1 March 2011, all costs of purchasing Inhibace will have to be met by the patient.

## Will the new brand cost me any more?

No.

Other than the usual patient co-payment, Zapril will cost the same as Inhibace costs you now.

## Will the tablets or pack look any different?

Yes.

Because Zapril is made by a different supplier, the tablets and packaging will look a bit different from the Inhibace tablets. However, they will still have the same cilazapril medicine, they will still come in blister pack form and will work just the same.

## Where can I get more information?

If you have any questions about this change and what it means for you, please talk to your doctor or pharmacist, or you can phone the PHARMAC helpline, **0800 66 00 50** (between 9am and 4pm weekdays). You can also e-mail **brandswitch@pharmac.govt.nz** with your queries and/or comments.

