

7 November 2011

Approval of proposal to re-apply reference pricing across brands of risperidone and quetiapine

PHARMAC has approved a proposal to re-apply reference pricing across different brands of risperidone tablets and oral liquid and across different brands of quetiapine tablets from 1 July 2012. This proposal was the subject of a consultation letter dated 23 September 2011 which can be found on PHARMAC's website at www.pharmac.govt.nz/2011/09/23

In summary, the effect of the decisions is that:

- the subsidy for the Risperdal brand of risperidone tablets and oral liquid will be reduced to the level of the subsidy for all other funded brands of risperidone tablets and oral liquid (as applicable) from 1 July 2012; and
- the subsidy for the Quetapel brand of quetiapine tablets will be reduced to the level of the subsidy for all other funded brands of quetiapine tablets from 1 July 2012.

If the suppliers of Risperdal (Janssen) and Quetapel (Mylan) do not reduce their prices to match the new subsidies, patients could either pay a manufacturer's surcharge to remain on these brands or switch to any other funded brand to remain on a fully funded product.

All other funded brands of risperidone (Apo-Risperidone, Dr Reddy's Risperidone, Ridal and Risperon) and quetiapine (Dr Reddy's Quetiapine and Seroquel) will remain fully funded. Risperidone orally-disintegrating tablets (Risperdal Quicklet) and injection (Risperdal Consta) will also remain fully funded.

Details of the decisions

From 1 July 2012 the subsidy for the Risperdal brand of risperidone tablets and oral liquid will be reduced in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule to the level of all other funded brands of risperidone tablets and oral liquid (as applicable) as follows (prices and subsidies expressed ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Current price and subsidy	New subsidy
Risperidone	Tab 0.5 mg	Risperdal	20	\$5.20	\$1.17
Risperidone	Tab 1 mg	Risperdal	60	\$30.77	\$6.00
Risperidone	Tab 2 mg	Risperdal	60	\$61.53	\$11.00
Risperidone	Tab 3 mg	Risperdal	60	\$92.32	\$15.00
Risperidone	Tab 4 mg	Risperdal	60	\$123.05	\$20.00
Risperidone	Oral liq 1 mg per ml	Risperdal	30 ml	\$45.92	\$18.35

From 1 July 2012 the subsidy for the Quetapel brand of quetiapine tablets will be reduced in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule to the level of all other funded brands of quetiapine tablets as follows (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Current price and subsidy	New subsidy
Quetiapine	Tab 25 mg	Quetapel	90	\$16.78	\$10.50
Quetiapine	Tab 100 mg	Quetapel	90	\$32.59	\$21.00
Quetiapine	Tab 200 mg	Quetapel	90	\$56.70	\$36.00
Quetiapine	Tab 300 mg	Quetapel	90	\$95.40	\$60.00

Feedback received

We appreciate all of the feedback that we received and acknowledge the time people took to respond. All consultation responses received by 7 October 2011 were considered in their entirety in making a decision on the proposed changes. Responses were generally supportive of the proposal.

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.