

5 December 2011

Proposal to amend the listing of benztropine mesylate injections

PHARMAC has signed a provisional agreement with Invida Australia Pty Ltd and is seeking feedback on the following proposals relating to benztropine mesylate (Cogentin) injections:

- benztropine mesylate injection would be amended in Section B and listed in Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 February 2012 as follows (expressed ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Current price and subsidy in Section B	Proposed Price and subsidy
Benztropine mesylate	1 mg per ml, 2 ml ampoule	Cogentin	5	36.35	95.00

- Cogentin would be funded in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule subject to the current restrictions, which are:
 - up to 5 inj available on a PSO;
 - only on a PSO.
- Cogentin would have protection from delisting and subsidy reduction until 1 February 2017.

Feedback sought

PHARMAC welcomes feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback, please submit it in writing by **Friday, 16 December 2011** to:

Natalie Davis
 Therapeutic Group Manager
 PHARMAC
 PO Box 10 254
 Wellington 6143

Email: natalie.davis@pharmac.govt.nz

Fax: 04 460 4995

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.

Background

Benztropine is an anticholinergic used for all forms of Parkinsonism. The parenteral formulation (Cogentin) is for use in the emergency treatment of acute drug-induced dystonic reactions.

Cogentin has been listed in the Pharmaceutical Schedule since 1994 and is currently restricted to supply of up to 5 ampoules only on a PSO; however, it has never been subject to a supply agreement.

Invida Australia Pty Ltd notified PHARMAC of its intention to significantly increase the price of Cogentin. Acceptance of the current proposal would result in a supply agreement taking effect from 1 February 2012 and would provide greater surety around price and ongoing supply. PHARMAC is unaware of any alternative suppliers of benztropine mesylate injections.