

Clinicians' Newsletter



*“Make life easier,
always think generically”*

February 2012

Named Patient Pharmaceutical Assessment (NPPA)

From 1 March 2012, PHARMAC's Named Patient Pharmaceutical Assessment (NPPA) will come into effect. This will replace the current Exceptional Circumstances schemes and includes changes like the removal of criteria restricting funding to rare conditions and changes to the application process, for example being able to apply electronically.

For more information, including the NPPA Policy, criteria and contact details, visit our website at <http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/haveyoursay/ecreview>.

Subsidy changes for some respiratory inhalation products and access restrictions to combination inhalers

Subsidy and restriction changes will occur to some respiratory inhalation products from 1 February 2012. These changes vary from that summarised in previous notifications. The changes are summarised below:

Change of Access

- Widening of access to combination inhalers by removing the requirement for patients to be on separate ICS and LABA inhalers for at least three months prior to being eligible for funded combination inhalers via Special Authority. This means that a patient who has trialled a minimum of three months ICS (with or without a LABA) may now go straight on to a combination inhaler (Symbicort or Seretide). Please note a Special Authority number is still required.

Change to subsidies

- From the 1st of February 2012 there will again be full funding for all patients for budesonide with eformoterol via Special Authority - all strengths of Vannair and Symbicort Turbuhaler. This applies to both new and existing patients.
- From the 1st of February 2012 there will be surcharges for eformoterol inhalers (Oxis Turbuhaler and Foradil); however the chemical will remain fully funded when used as a combination product with budesonide (Symbicort and Vannair). Note that this surcharge does not apply to salmeterol (Serevent) which will remain fully funded on its own and in combination with fluticisone (Seretide). To assist the implementation of these changes Oxis Turbuhaler and Foradil repeat dispensings for prescriptions where the first dispensing was before 1 February 2012 will be fully funded.

This will give clinicians and patients time to make a change should patients wish to receive a fully funded product.

These changes have previously been notified. Please refer to the full Notification located on the PHARMAC website for further details. <http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/healthpros/notification>

Insulin Glargine removal of prescriber note

In August 2010 the Special Authority restriction for insulin glargine (Lantus and Lantus SoloStar) was removed and replaced with a "prescriber note" (effectively a guideline). This prescriber note has now been removed from 1 February 2012. This means that there are no restrictions on this medicine.



The PHARMAC Seminar Series provides high quality educational seminars for a range of health professionals. The seminars are held in Wellington and the cost to attend is \$100 + GST. PHARMAC covers the cost of travel, including flights, to and from the seminar and provides catering on the day.

<http://seminarseries.pharmac.govt.nz/>

Date	Topic	Description
20 Feb 2012	Clinical Pharmacology for Nurses	Nurses involved in patient medication management and those looking to update their knowledge and understanding on how drugs work.
05 Mar 2012	Red Rash Made Easy	GP's, Nurses, Pharmacists and other front line health professionals dealing with clinical patients
29 Mar 2012	Assessing and Managing the Newborn	This is a repeat seminar
18 May 2012	Polypharmacy Care of the Older Person	General practitioners, pharmacists and nurses working with patients on complex medication regimens.

Brand Changes

Pharmacy Brand Switch Payment for Bicalutamide

Brand switch payments for pharmacies will be payable for dispensings of the Bicalaccord brand of bicalutamide 50mg tablets from 1 February 2012.

The brand switch fee is claimable via a Pharmacode on the first dispensing of bicalutamide after 1 February 2012 for patients who have switched brands. Pharmacies should claim a fee even if the patient switched to the Sole Supply brand prior to 1 February 2012. The brand switch fee for bicalutamide will be paid only once for each patient during the claim period. The brand switch fee will not be able to be claimed for this pharmaceutical for dispensing after 30 April 2012.

Brand switch posters, leaflets and prescription bags are available free of charge. To order, please go to www.pharmaonline.co.nz

Discontinuation of Cardinol 10mg and 40mg tablets

Mylan are discontinuing the supply of the Cardinol brand of propranolol 10mg and 40mg tablets. Current supplies are expected to last until February 2012 for 40mg tablets and until April 2012 for the 10mg tablets. Alternative Beta adrenoreceptor blockers are fully funded. The long-acting 160mg propranolol capsules (Cardinol) will continue to be supplied.

Ethinylestradiol 30 mcg with levonorgestrel 150 mcg tablets

From 1 April 2012 a new brand of ethinylestradiol 30 mcg with levonorgestrel 150 mcg and 7 inert tablets, Ava 30 ED, will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Schedule. This is the result of a tender agreement and from 1 June 2012 there may be a part charge on Levlen ED and Monofeme and an increase in the part charge currently applying to Nordette 28 and Microgynon 30 ED.

Levlen ED, Monofeme, Nordette 28 and Microgynon 30 ED will be delisted from 1 September 2012.

Calcium Carbonate 600mg tablets

From 1 May 2012 only the 500mg strength of Calcium carbonate tablets will continue to be funded. This is the result of a tender agreement and at this time the Calci-tab brand of 500mg and 600mg tablets will be delisted.

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Special Authority Queries: **0800 243 666**

General Questions: **0800 66 00 50** (9am – 5pm Monday to Friday)

Online version of Prescriber newsletter:

<http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/healthpros/CliniciansNews>

Inpharmation newsletter:

<http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/patients/ourviews/inpharmation>.

Newsletter feedback: email rochelle.harker@pharmac.govt.nz

Please note this is not a complete reference to all changes occurring from 1 February 2012, for the full reference; please consult your Update to the Pharmaceutical Schedule.

New Listings

New Listing Rizatriptan

From 1 March 2012 a new brand of Rizatriptan orodispersible tablets will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Schedule. Rizamelt is to be supplied by Mylan New Zealand and will be awarded sole supply from 1 August 2012.

inPharmation

PHARMAC publishes a quarterly email newsletter, inPharmation, that includes news and updates on developments around PHARMAC and pharmaceutical issues. If you would like to receive inPharmation, contact jessica@pharmac.govt.nz

