

17 May 2012
May 2012 Pharmaceutical Schedule Dispatch

This document is provided to pharmacists as an early notification of the changes to be announced in the **June 2012** Update to the Pharmaceutical Schedule. Please notify PHARMAC (0800 66 00 50) to change or remove your contact details.

New listings

- Sodium nitroprusside (Accu-Chek Ketur-Test) test strip (p'code 2399962) – maximum 50 test strips per prescription – not on a BSO
- Azithromycin (Zithromax) grans for oral liq 200 mg per 5 ml (p'code 2144042) – subsidy by endorsement
- Auranofin (Ridaura s29) tab 3 mg (p'code 2397536) - section 29
- Oxaliplatin (Oxaliplatin Actavis 50) inj 50 mg (p'code 2400545) and 100 mg (p'code 2400553) – PCT only – Specialist – Special Authority
- Epirubicin (DBL Epirubicin Hydrochloride) inj 2 mg per ml, 25 ml (p'code 2402483), 2 mg per ml, 50 ml (p'code 2402475) and 2 mg per ml, 100 ml (p'code 2402467) – PCT only - Specialist

Changes to restrictions

- Ethinyloestradiol with levonorgestrel (Nordette 28 and Microgynon 30 ED) – removal of Special Authority for alternate subsidy
- Prasugrel (Effient) – amended Special Authority
- Addition of stat dispensing to 34 chemicals

Decreased subsidy

Chemical	Presentation	Fully subsidised brands	Partially subsidised brands
Metoprolol succinate	Tab long-acting 23.75 mg, 47.5 mg, 95 mg and 190 mg	Metoprolol - AFT CR* Myloc CR	Betaloc CR
Ethinyloestradiol with levonorgestrel	Tab 30 µg with levonorgestrel 150 µg and 7 inert tab	Ava 30 ED	Levlen ED Monofeme Nordette Microgynon 30 ED
Dexamethasone	Tab 1 mg and 4 mg	Douglas	
Mycophenolate mofetil	Tab 500 mg Cap 250 mg	Ceptolate* Cellcept* Myaccord Ceptolate* Cellcept* Myaccord	

* no subsidy changes for these brands

Changes to Pharmaceutical Schedule subscriptions

From 1 July 2012 there will be a nominal charge to receive the hard copy publications of the Pharmaceutical Schedule. PHARMAC is introducing changes to the subscriptions for the Pharmaceutical Schedule publications. Subscribers will be able to receive electronic copies of the publications by email free of charge, where hard copies will attract a fee.

You may prefer to receive an emailed link to a downloadable PDF copy, free of charge. This will be emailed to your nominated email address each time a new edition is published. You can activate this to receive either a free electronic version or paid hard copy by visiting the subscription website – www.schedule.co.nz – which will be live from late May 2012. Subscriptions will be managed via a secure website. There will be a two month lead in time for both the email and hard copy subscriptions, with the activation of these subscriptions from 12 July 2012, just in time for the August 2012 Update.

Annual subscription fees for hard copies of the Pharmaceuticals Schedule and Updates will cost \$55.00, and a combined subscription to Schedules/Updates and Section H will cost \$65.00. These fees do not represent full cost recovery, but a contribution towards the cost of printing and postage.

We note that in addition to email and hard copy subscriptions the Pharmaceutical Schedule can also be freely accessed online, anytime, via the PHARMAC website. Functionality of the online Schedule continues to be improved and we welcome your suggestions for further improvement.

Community pharmacies will receive one free hard copy subscription per licensed pharmacy site. This is a goodwill gesture by DHBs as part of the current Pharmacy Contracting discussions. Pharmacies may choose to purchase further hard copy subscriptions to the Pharmaceutical Schedule if they require more than one hard copy.

Even if you sign up before the July cut off, your subscription will automatically start from July 2012 and run until June 2013. We will notify you to renew your hard copy subscription via email approximately six weeks before it expires.

Upcoming Brand Switch Fees

The following brand changes will incur a BSF subject to the implementation of the proposed Pharmacy Services Agreement.

BSF 1 August 2012 until 1 November 2012

- Rizatriptan (Rizamelt); Tab orodispersible 10 mg
- Ursodeoxycholic acid (Ursosan); Cap 250 mg

BSF 1 September 2012 to 1 December 2012

- Metoprolol succinate (Metoprolol – AFT CR); Tab long-acting 23.75 mg, 47.5 mg, 95mg and 190 mg

BSF 1 September 2012 to 1 March 2013

- Ethinyloestradiol with levonorgestrel (Ava 30 ED); Tab 30 µg with levonorgestrel 150 µg and 7 inert tab

BSF 1 October 2012 until 1 January 2013

- Brimonidine tartrate (Arrow-Brimonidine); Eye drops 0.2%

BSF 1 November 2012 to 1 February 2013

- Candesartan (Candestar) Tab 4 mg, 8 mg, 16 mg and 32 mg

BSF 1 December 2012 to 1 March 2013

- Felodipine (Plendil ER); Tab long-acting 5 mg and 10 mg

BSF 1 December 2012 to 1 June 2013

- Ethinyloestradiol with levonorgestrel (Ava 20 ED); Tab 20 µg with levonorgestrel 100 µg and 7 inert tab

BSF 1 March 2013 to 1 June 2013

- Acarbose (Accarb) Tab 50 mg and 100 mg

Medicines moving to Stat dispensing

From time to time, PHARMAC reviews pharmaceuticals for their suitability to move to all-at-once (or stat) dispensing. As a result of the latest review, from 1 June 2012, 34 pharmaceuticals will move from monthly dispensing to all-at-once or stat dispensing.

This will reduce anomalies within therapeutic groups and list similar chemicals with the same dispensing period.

Of the 39 chemicals that were consulted on, 34 chemicals will move to stat dispensing on 1 June 2012. Please see pages 23 – 26 of the June Update for full details of which medicines are affected.

For medicines where the first dispensing has occurred prior to 1 June 2012, the balance of the prescription will be dispensed stat, or all-at-once. It will not be dispensed in monthly lots. To be dispensed more frequently, prescribers will have to endorse the prescription Close Control.

Patients who reside in residential facilities who are on one of these medicines, will need to have their repeats endorsed close control to facilitate the continuation of monthly dispensings.

Further chemicals are to be reviewed and may be moved to stat dispensing at a later date following further clinical input and consultation.

NB. For further details and magnitude of the above subsidy changes, please consult the online version of the Update to the Pharmaceutical Schedule at: www.pharmac.govt.nz/healthpros/Schedule.