

17 April 2012

Listing propylthiouracil on the Pharmaceutical Schedule

PHARMAC is pleased to announce approval of the proposal to fund propylthiouracil (PTU) through an agreement with AFT Pharmaceuticals Ltd. This was the subject of a consultation letter dated 28 March 2012. In summary, the effect of the decision is that:

- Propylthiouracil will be listed under a Special Authority in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule for 1 May 2012

Details of the proposal

- AFT's brand of Propylthiouracil will be listed in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 May 2012 as follows:

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Price and subsidy
Propylthiouracil	Tab 50 mg	PTU	100	\$35.00

- Propylthiouracil will be listed under the following Special Authority:

Special Authority for Subsidy

Initial application only from any relevant practitioner. Approvals valid for 2 years for applications meeting the following criteria:

Both:

- The patient has hyperthyroidism; and
- The patient is intolerant of carbimazole or carbimazole is contraindicated.

Renewal from any relevant practitioner. Approvals valid for 2 years where the treatment remains appropriate and the patient is benefiting from the treatment.

NB: Propylthiouracil will be supplied by AFT under section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981, however AFT intends to seek market approval from Medsafe for its product.

Current Approvals

All current approvals for propylthiouracil with an EXCP prefix (those patients who have been approved under either the Exceptional Circumstance route or Named Patient Pharmaceutical Assessment (NPPA) route) will automatically be changed to CHEM numbers which will be valid for 2 years from the date the initial EXCP number was issued. After 1 May 2012, clinicians will receive a letter from the Ministry of Health, Sector Services notifying them of the new CHEM numbers and cancelling the EXCP numbers.

Feedback received

We appreciate all of the feedback that we received and acknowledge the time people took to respond. All consultation responses received by 12 April 2012 were considered in their

entirety in making a decision on the proposed changes. Most responses were supportive of the proposal, and the following issue was raised in relation to a specific aspect of the proposal:

Theme	Comment
One respondent commented that it would be a major advance if endocrinologists did not have to apply for Special Authority numbers lasting 1-2 years but be able to prescribe it immediately and according to endocrinologist authority.	PHARMAC staff note that the proposal changes the application process from a manual Exceptional Circumstances application to a Special Authority application which can be made online with an immediate response giving a SA number.

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.