

# May 2026 Tender notification

26 May 2026

## What we're doing

Pharmac is announcing recent decisions from its Annual Invitation to Tender (ITT) process. This notification includes:

- details about decisions made for medicines included in the 2024/25 ITT and in the 2025/26 ITT, following the consultations for medicines where Pharmac was considering a possible brand change; and
- a summary of the feedback we received during the consultation.

You can see the full technical details of the tender decisions in the Tender Results section [\[link\]](#).

The table below provides a summary of the outcomes for the remaining unresolved medicines from the 2024/25 ITT that were included in the May 2025 and July 2025 brand change consultations.

Medicine	What medicine is used for	Outcome
Calcium gluconate inj 10%	Used to treat acute hypocalcaemia; hypocalcaemic tetany; hyperkalaemia with secondary cardiac toxicity; and hypermagnesaemia.	Still under consideration.
Iron (as Ferric Carboxymaltose) inj 50 mg per ml, 10 ml vial	An iron infusion used to treat iron-deficiency or anemia.	Still under consideration.
Ivermectin tab 3 mg	Used to treat certain types of parasite infections, and for scabies when other treatments have not worked well.	Still under consideration.
Methenamine (hexamine) Hippurate tab 1 g	Used to prevent urinary tract infections (UTIs).	<b>Brand change.</b>
Nilotinib cap 150 mg	Used to treat newly diagnosed chronic phase Philadelphia chromosome-positive chronic myeloid leukaemia, chronic or accelerated phase Philadelphia chromosome-positive chronic myeloid leukaemia resistant or intolerant to previous therapy.	Still under consideration.
Nilotinib cap 200 mg		Still under consideration.
Raltegravir potassium tab 600 mg	Used for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in combination with other antiretroviral drugs.	Still under consideration.
Sunscreens, propriety SPF 50+ or greater	Used to help protect your skin from the sun's damaging ultraviolet (UV) light when outdoors.	Still under consideration.

Water for injection purified for inj, 500 ml bag	Used to dissolve or dilute medicines which may then be injected. It can also be used for washing and cleaning purposes during minor surgical procedures, and to clean wounds.	Still under consideration.
Xylometazoline nasal spray 0.1%	Used to help nasal congestion.	Still under consideration.

## Why we're doing this

Pharmac's annual tender process allows suppliers to bid to be the main supplier of off-patent medicines. This year's tender is expected to free up between \$30 million and \$50 million, which will be reinvested into funding new treatments or making existing treatments available to even more people.

Pharmac consulted on potential brand changes for some medicines included in the 2024/25 ITT in May 2025 and July 2025, and for some medicines included in the 2025/26 ITT in April 2026. Feedback received during these consultations has helped shape our decisions.

## How your feedback helped

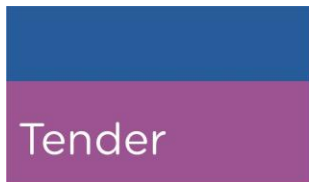
The feedback received is considered as part of the decision-making process and has helped shape our implementation activities to support people through brand changes. We want to thank everyone who took the time to share their feedback. We heard from a range of people including healthcare professionals, advocacy groups and users of medicines. You provided feedback about:

- packaging and labelling considerations
- the resources and communications needed to support a brand change
- the people who may need additional support when undergoing a brand change

## Who may be most interested

- People who use funded medicines
- Healthcare professionals
- Advocacy groups
- Suppliers

If you have any questions about the decisions in this notification, you can email us at [enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz); or call our toll free number (9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday) on 0800 660 050.



26 May 2026

## Tender results – 2024/25 and 2025/26 Invitation to Tenders

Pharmac has resolved to award or not award tenders for Principal Supply Status for some products included in the 2024/25 Invitation to Tender dated 31 October 2024 and in the 2025/26 Invitation to Tender dated 3 November 2025.

Some of the Pharmaceuticals that will be delisted when the period of Principal Supply Status commences may be subject to existing listing contracts with Pharmac. Suppliers of Pharmaceuticals that are subject to such contracts should continue to supply their Pharmaceutical under those contracts. Pharmac will continue to subsidise those Pharmaceuticals accordingly until such time as those Pharmaceuticals are delisted.

### Notification of Product Changes (NOPC) forms

Please note that for any changes (price change, pack size change, new listing etc) to be effective in the Pharmaceutical Schedule (including Section H), suppliers are required to submit a Notification of Product Changes (NOPC) form to Pharmac, the Pharmacy Guild and the NZULM by:

- **For new listings**, by 4pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> of June 2026 or the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to listing, whichever is earlier
- **For price changes**, by 4pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the date of subsidy change

Pharmac cannot list a product (and Pharmacies cannot claim) without this information. More information about this process, and a copy of the NOPC form can be found on our website – <https://pharmac.govt.nz/medicine-funding-and-supply/make-an-application/pharmconnect-make-a-medicine-funding-application/process-for-notification-of-product-changes/>

Suppliers are required to ensure that a Pharmacode has been obtained from the Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand (<https://www.pgnz.org.nz/our-trading-arm-ps/>) and that a CTPP code has been obtained from the New Zealand Universal List of Medicines (<http://www.nzulm.org.nz/sponsors>). Pharmacodes and CTPP codes must be provided to Pharmac by the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the date of listing, or 10 business days following the market notification date (whichever is earliest). Pharmac cannot list a product (and Pharmacies cannot claim) without the correct Pharmacode.

**2024/25 Invitation to Tender – Principal Supply Status applies until 30 June 2028**

**Community Pharmaceutical tenders – Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule**

1. *Tenders awarded to pharmaceuticals where at least one other brand is listed (the funded brand will change).*

Chemical name	Presentation; Pack size and type	Current pack price	New pack price	Principal Supply brand (Supplier)	Date of subsidy change	Principal Supply date	Brand (Supplier) affected by delisting
Methenamine (hexamine) hippurate	Tab 1 g; 100 tablet bottle pack	\$19.95	\$13.80	U-Tract (Miro)	1 December 2026	1 May 2027	Hiprex (Inova)

**Hospital Pharmaceutical tenders – Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule.**

2. *Tenders awarded to pharmaceuticals where at least one other brand is listed (the funded brand will change).*

Chemical name	Presentation; Pack size and type	Current pack price	New pack price	Principal Supply brand (Supplier)	DV Limit	Date of subsidy change	Principal Supply date	Brand (Supplier) affected by delisting
Methenamine (hexamine) hippurate	Tab 1 g; 100 tablet bottle pack	\$19.95	\$13.80	U-Tract (Miro)	5%	1 December 2026	1 May 2027	Hiprex (Inova)

## 2025/26 Invitation to Tender – Principal Supply Status applies until 30 June 2029

### Community Pharmaceutical tenders – Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule

3. *Tenders awarded to currently listed pharmaceuticals where no other brand is listed (no brand change).*

Chemical name	Presentation; Pack size and type	Current pack price	New pack price	Principal Supply brand (Supplier)	Date of subsidy change	Principal Supply date
Magnesium sulphate	Inj 2 mmol per ml, 5 ml ampoule; 10 ampoule pack	\$37.53	\$26.27	Martindale (Max Health)	1 July 2026	1 February 2027
Ketamine	Inj 100 mg per ml, 2 ml vial; 5 vial pack	\$91.98	\$91.98	Ketalar (Pfizer)	1 August 2026	1 January 2027

4. *Tenders awarded to pharmaceuticals where at least one other brand is listed (the funded brand will change).*

Chemical name	Presentation; Pack size and type	Current pack price	New pack price	Principal Supply brand (Supplier)	Date of subsidy change	Principal Supply date	Brand (Supplier) affected by delisting
Cetirizine hydrochloride	Oral liq 1 mg per ml; 200 ml bottle	\$3.99	\$2.64	Noumed Cetirizine Hayfever & Allergy Relief (Noumed)	1 November 2026	1 April 2027	Histaclear (AFT)
Colecalciferol	Oral liq 10 mcg per drop (400 iu per drop); 20 ml dropper bottle (OP)	\$9.00 (per 5 ml)	\$5.90	Multichem (Multichem)	1 March 2027	1 August 2027	Clinicians (Healthcare by Douglas)
Dimethicone	Crm 10%; 480g pump bottle (OP)	\$4.52	\$3.60	EVARA Dimethicone 10% Cream (Evara)	1 October 2026	1 March 2027	healthE Dimethicone 10% (Jaychem)

Chemical name	Presentation; Pack size and type	Current pack price	New pack price	Principal Supply brand (Supplier)	Date of subsidy change	Principal Supply date	Brand (Supplier) affected by delisting
Entecavir	Tab 0.5 mg; 30 tablet blister pack	\$12.04	\$6.73	Entecavir Sandoz (Sandoz)	1 October 2026	1 March 2027	Entecavir (Rex) (Rex Medical)
Macrogol 3350 with potassium chloride, sodium bicarbonate and sodium chloride	Powder for oral soln 13.125 g with potassium chloride 46.6 mg, sodium bicarbonate 178.5 mg and sodium chloride 350.7 mg; 30 sachet pack	\$10.15	\$7.40	Ethics Macrogol with Electrolytes (Multichem)	1 February 2027	1 July 2027	Molaxole (Arrotex) (Pharmacode:2718332) Movicol (Norgine) (Pharmacode:2194864)* Molaxole (Arrotex) (Pharmacode: 2519887)*
Moxifloxacin	Tab 400 mg; 5 tablet blister pack	\$42.00	\$25.98	Moximed (Medsurge)	1 July 2026	1 December 2026	Avelox (Bayer)

\*These brands were sourced as alternative pharmaceuticals to support a supply event and will be de-listed at the same time as the PSS start date for Ethics Macrogol with Electrolytes.

## Hospital Pharmaceutical tenders – Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule.

### 5. Tenders awarded to currently listed pharmaceuticals where no other brand is listed (no brand change)

Chemical name	Presentation; Pack size and type	Current pack price	New pack price	Principal Supply brand (Supplier)	DV Limit	Date of subsidy change	Principal Supply date
Magnesium sulphate	Inj 2 mmol per ml, 5 ml ampoule; 10 ampoule pack	\$37.53	\$26.27	Martindale (Max Health)	5%	1 July 2026	1 February 2027
Ephedrine	Inj 30 mg per ml, 1 ml ampoule; 10 ampoule pack	\$34.31	\$42.89	Max Health (Max Health)	5%	1 July 2026	1 December 2026
Ketamine	Inj 100 mg per ml, 2 ml vial; 5 vial pack	\$91.98	\$91.98	Ketalar (Pfizer)	5%	1 August 2026	1 January 2027

6. *Tenders awarded to pharmaceuticals where at least one other brand is listed (the funded brand will change).*

Chemical name	Presentation; Pack size and type	Current pack price	New pack price	Principal Supply brand (Supplier)	DV Limit	Date of subsidy change	Principal Supply date	Brand (Supplier) affected by delisting
Cetirizine hydrochloride	Oral liq 1 mg per ml; 200 ml bottle	\$3.99	\$2.64	Noumed Cetirizine Hayfever & Allergy Relief (Noumed)	5%	1 November 2026	1 April 2027	Histaclear (AFT)
Colecalciferol	Oral liq 10 mcg per drop (400 iu per drop); 20 ml dropper bottle (OP)	\$9.00 (per 5 ml)	\$5.90	Multichem (Multichem)	5%	1 March 2027	1 August 2027	Clinicians (Healthcare by Douglas)
Dimethicone	Crn 10%; 480g pump bottle (OP)	\$4.52	\$3.60	EVARA Dimethicone 10% Cream (Evara)	5%	1 October 2026	1 March 2027	healthE Dimethicone 10% (Jaychem)
Entecavir	Tab 0.5 mg; 30 tablet blister pack	\$12.04	\$6.73	Entecavir Sandoz (Sandoz)	5%	1 October 2026	1 March 2027	Entecavir (Rex) (Rex Medical)
Macrogol 3350 with potassium chloride, sodium bicarbonate and sodium chloride	Powder for oral soln 13.125 g with potassium chloride 46.6 mg, sodium bicarbonate 178.5 mg and sodium chloride 350.7 mg; 30 sachet pack	\$10.15	\$7.40	Ethics Macrogol with Electrolytes (Multichem)	5%	1 February 2027	1 July 2027	Molaxole (Arrotex) (Pharmacode:2718332) Movicol (Norgine) (Pharmacode:2194864)* Molaxole (Arrotex) (Pharmacode: 2519887)*
Moxifloxacin	Tab 400 mg; 5 tablet blister pack	\$42.00	\$25.98	Moximed (Medsurge)	5%	1 July 2026	1 December 2026	Avelox (Bayer)

\*These brands were sourced as alternative pharmaceuticals to support a supply event and will be de-listed at the same time as the PSS start date for Ethics Macrogol with Electrolytes.

## What you told us

We consulted on potential brand changes for some medicines included in the 2025/26 ITT in [April 2026](#). Feedback from this consultation reflected a range of views, with some recurring themes from last year's consultations ([May and July 2025](#)). All feedback received has been carefully considered to inform our decisions.

Earlier this year, we also we also engaged with a range of consumer advocacy representatives to understand what a brand change could mean for people and what support may be needed.

We are continuing to consider feedback relating to medicines included in the May 2025, July 2025 and April 2026 potential brand change consultations that are not included in this notification.

The table below outlines the themes identified in the feedback received for the specific medicines included in this notification.

Theme	Pharmac Comment
<b>Cetirizine Hydrochloride</b>	
Consider the presence of allergens (lactose, sugar, alcohol, gluten) when evaluating brand changes especially for allergy medications.	The Noumed brand does not have any declarable contents of lactose, sugar, alcohol and gluten.
Changes in excipients or taste could affect patient adherence, particularly for children or those with sensitivities.	The Tender Clinical Advisory Committee (TCAC), reviewed the proposed Noumed brand, including testing its palatability, and considered it to be suitable to be the main funded brand of cetirizine hydrochloride oral liquid in New Zealand. TCAC is made up of a range of healthcare professionals including pharmacists, nurses and doctors who have hands-on experience with medicines and understand the practical implications of different product characteristics.  The Noumed brand is banana-flavoured, which is the same flavour as the current brand, and majority of the excipients are the same.
<b>Colecalciferol</b>	
Colecalciferol oral liquid is used in neonates, and the excipients need to be carefully considered as high doses of colecalciferol oral liquid can be used on the recommendation of dieticians.	The excipients present in the current brand of colecalciferol oral liquid, Clinicians, are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Macrogolglycerol hydroxystearate</li> <li>• Vitamin E</li> <li>• Medium-chain triglycerides (fractionated coconut oil)</li> <li>• Ethanol.</li> </ul> The excipients present in the Multichem brand of colecalciferol oral liquid, are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Virgin olive oil</li> <li>• Tocobiol (Mix of natural tocopherols)</li> <li>• Vitamin D3.</li> </ul> Pharmac staff consider the excipients to be like that of the incumbent brand, and we also consulted paediatric clinicians regarding these excipients who did not raise concerns. We note that the new brand does not contain ethanol, which was highlighted to us as an important consideration by neonatal units.

<b>Dimethicone</b>	
We did not receive any feedback specific to dimethicone.	Key themes from both rounds of consultation, including both general and specific brand change considerations, have been considered for this brand change decision.
<b>Entecavir</b>	
Provide adequate lead time prior to implementation.	The Sandoz brand of entecavir will be listed from 1 October 2026. A five-month transition period will follow, during which the previously funded brand will remain available.
Provide clear, accessible patient resources and targeted communications for those involved in people's care, including healthcare professionals.	<p>We recognise the importance of clear and accessible resources to support the people who use medicines as well as the healthcare professionals who prescribe, dispense, and administer medicines. We agree that clearly communicating any differences between the current and new brands, using a range of formats, is essential.</p> <p>We also acknowledge that timely and well-targeted communication can help reduce anxiety associated with a brand change. Tailored communications outlining the similarities and differences between brands will form part of the implementation approach.</p> <p>As part of our implementation approach, support resources and clear communications such as leaflets, product comparisons and online updates, will be shared to inform those involved in people's care, including healthcare professionals about the new brand.</p>
Consideration to changes to the storage conditions, the size, or shape of the tablet.	People may already be familiar with the Sandoz brand, as it was the main funded brand of entecavir from 2018 to 2024. There are no notable changes to storage requirements. The current Rex Medical tablet is triangular, and the new Sandoz tablet is round and approximately the same size.
Ensure packaging is appropriate (for example, easily distinguishable and available in suitable pack sizes) and that tablet features are suitable (including clear markings).	The TCAC has reviewed the proposed Sandoz brand and considered it appropriate to be the main funded brand in New Zealand. The Sandoz brand is supplied in the same pack size as the currently funded brand and includes clear markings on the tablet.
<b>Ephedrine</b>	
Ephedrine is an essential medicine and maintaining continuity of supply is critical. The feedback also emphasised the importance of timely communication of any brand or presentation changes, along with the need to manage risks associated with changes in packaging, appearance, delivery method, formulation, or concentration, including through clear warnings and appropriate supporting information.	Thank you for providing this feedback. We note the concerns raised regarding the essential nature of ephedrine and the critical nature of continuity of supply. This decision is to award the currently funded product, Max Health, the tender for ephedrine. As there would not be a brand change in this market, there is no change in presentation, packaging, appearance, delivery method, formulation or concentration to be communicated.
<b>Macrogol 3350 with potassium chloride, sodium bicarbonate and sodium chloride</b>	

<p>Consideration to funding multiple brands or flavourless options to improve palatability, as even slight differences in taste and texture can significantly affect younger children, particularly those who are neurodiverse.</p>	<p>Pharmac staff understand that having different brands of macrogol 3550 available can be beneficial for patients. The annual tender offers the successful supplier a period of Principal Supply Status, which means that its brand would be the main funded brand for the New Zealand public health system. This helps mitigate supply risks as the supplier has assured market share for a fixed period of time. For macrogol 3550, this is a 95% market share for the principal supply brand, with a 5% allowance to enable funded access to alternative brands.</p> <p>New Zealanders benefit from certainty of expenditure for the PSS period and the supplier benefits from stable demand volumes enabling better supply planning. If someone cannot use the Ethics Macrogol with Electrolytes brand for clinical reasons, Pharmac may consider applications for an alternative brand through the Exceptional Circumstances framework.</p> <p>Pharmac understands that a flavour free product is preferred for paediatric and neurodiverse patients as it is more palatable. We have received a funding application for a flavour free macrogol 3350; however, at this stage we have been unable to identify a supplier and are not aware of any Medsafe applications currently pending for this product.</p>
<p><b>Methenamine (hexamine) hippurate</b></p>	
<p>We did not receive any feedback specific to methenamine (hexamine) hippurate.</p>	<p>Key themes from both rounds of consultation, including both general and specific brand change considerations, have been taken into account for this brand change decision.</p>
<p><b>Moxifloxacin</b></p>	
<p>We did not receive any feedback specific to moxifloxacin.</p>	<p>Key themes from both rounds of consultation, including both general and specific brand change considerations, have been taken into account for this brand change decision.</p>