

# October 2025 Tender notification

30 October 2025

## What we're doing

Pharmac is announcing recent decisions from its annual tender process. This notification includes:

- Decisions on medicines following our additional round of consultation, for medicines where Pharmac was considering a possible brand change
- A summary of the feedback we received from the consultation.
- A decision to amend the hospital restriction criteria for plerixafor inj 20 mg per ml, enabling funded access for allogeneic stem cell donors through the Pharmaceutical Schedule. We have also amended the peripheral blood count criteria and white blood cell count criteria.

Brand changes will begin to take effect from May 2026.

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.

Following feedback from last year's brand changes, Pharmac introduced a new consultation step to better engage with stakeholders. We consulted on the impact of potential brand changes and this feedback helped shape our decisions. Over 30 individuals and groups responded, highlighting the importance of clear communication and support during transitions between brands.

The table below summarises the outcome for each medicine included in the May and July consultation.

Medicine	What medicine is used for	Outcome
Amoxicillin cap 500 mg	A penicillin antibiotic that is used to treat bacterial infections.	Brand change notified in July 2025
Amphotericin B Liposomal inj 50 mg	used for the treatment and prophylaxis of serious systemic fungal infections.	Brand change notified in August 2025
Bisacodyl tab 5 mg	for short-term relief of constipation.	Brand change notified in July 2025
Bortezomib inj 3.5 mg	used to treat multiple myeloma	Still under consideration
Calcitriol cap 0.25 mcg	A form of vitamin D, used for people with severe kidney disease to lower their parathyroid hormone (PTH) levels.	Still under consideration
Calcitriol cap 0.5 mcg		Still under consideration
Calcium Gluconate Inj 10%	Used to treat acute hypocalcaemia; hypocalcaemic tetany; hyperkalaemia with secondary cardiac toxicity; and hypermagnesaemia.	Still under consideration
Carmustine inj 100 mg vial	used to treat multiple myeloma, non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, and brain tumours	Still under consideration
Cefalexin monohydrate cap 250 mg	A cephalosporin antibiotic used to treat a variety of bacterial infections.	Brand change notified in July 2025

Cefalexin monohydrate cap 500 mg		Brand change notified in July 2025
Cefalexin monohydrate grans for oral liq 25 mg per ml, and 50 mg per ml		Brand change notified in August 2025
Cefalexin monohydrate grans for oral liq 50 mg per ml		Brand change notified in August 2025
Celecoxib cap 200 mg	A nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory (NSAID) medicine used to relieve pain and inflammation.	Brand change notified in July 2025
Chloramphenicol eye drops 0.5%	used to treat bacterial eye infections	Brand change notified in July 2025
Citalopram hydrobromide tab 20 mg	A selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) medicine which is used to treat depression.	No brand change
Colchicine tab 500 mcg	used to treat and prevent gout attacks and other inflammatory conditions.	Still under consideration
Compound electrolytes with glucose [dextrose]	used to treat dehydration, electrolyte imbalances, and provide a source of calories.	Brand change notified in July 2025
Cyclizine Lactate inj 50 mg per ml, 1 ml	used for nausea or vomiting caused by motion sickness, vertigo or Meniere's disease.	Still under consideration
Daptomycin inj 350 mg – 500 mg	a lipopeptide antibiotic used to treat serious bacterial infections.	Still under consideration
Dexamethasone phosphate inj 4 mg per ml, 1 ml	a corticosteroid used to reduce inflammation and suppress the immune system.	Brand change notified in August 2025
Dexamethasone phosphate inj 4 mg per ml, 2 ml		Brand change notified in August 2025
Dimethicone crm 5% (pack size greater than 100 g)	is used as a barrier to protect the skin against nappy rash, bedsores and urinary incontinence.	Brand change notified in September 2025
Dimethicone lotn – head lice suffocant	used to treat head lice.	No brand change notified in September 2025
Docusate sodium with sennosides tab 50 mg with sennosides 8 mg	used to treat constipation.	Brand change notified in July 2025
Droperidol inj 2.5 mg per ml, 1 ml	used to prevent nausea and vomiting that may occur after surgery or diagnostic procedures.	Brand change notified in July 2025

Enalapril tab 5 mg		Brand change notified in July 2025
Enalapril tab 10 mg	An angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitor. It's used to treat high blood pressure (hypertension) and heart failure.	Brand change notified in July 2025
Enalapril tab 20 mg		Brand change notified in July 2025
Ethinylestradiol with levonorgestrel tab 20 mcg with levonorgestrel 100 mcg and 7 inert tabs		Supplier change. Brand remains the same. Notified in September 2025.
Ethinylestradiol with levonorgestrel tab 30 mcg with levonorgestrel 150 mcg	A combination hormonal contraceptive used to prevent pregnancy.	Declined
Ethinylestradiol with levonorgestrel tab 30 mcg with levonorgestrel 150 mcg and 7 inert tabs		Supplier change. Brand remains the same. Notified in September 2025.
Ferrous Sulphate tab long-acting 325 mg		Declined
Ferrous Sulphate oral liq 30 mg (6 mg elemental) per ml	An iron supplement used to treat and prevent iron deficiency.	Brand change notified in July 2025
Fluoxetine hydrochloride cap 20 mg		No brand change notified in July 2025
Fulvestrant inj 50 mg per ml, 5 ml	A chemotherapy medicine used to treat certain types of breast cancer.	Brand Change. <a href="#">More information on the brand change for fulvestrant.</a>
Furosemide [Frusemide] inj 10 mg per ml, 2 ml	used to treat fluid retention and high blood pressure.	Brand change notified in August 2025
Glycopyrronium bromide inj 0.2 mg per ml, 1 ml	used to reduce secretions like saliva and mucus.	Brand change notified in July 2025
Heparin Sodium inj 5,000 iu per ml, 5 ml	an anticoagulant medicine used to prevent and treat blood clots.	Brand change notified in July 2025
Icatibant inj 10 mg per ml, 3 ml prefilled syringe	used to relieve acute attacks of hereditary angioedema (HAE) in patients with C1-esterase inhibitor deficiency	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
Levonorgestrel tab 1.5 mg	a hormonal medicine used for emergency contraception to prevent pregnancy.	Brand change notified in July 2025
Lidocaine [lignocaine] hydrochloride oral [gel] 2%	a local anaesthetic and antiarrhythmic drug. It's used to numb specific areas of the body during minor surgical procedures, dental work, or other medical procedures.	Brand change notified in July 2025
Liquid paraffin with white soft paraffin oint (pack size 100 g or less)	used as an emollient to manage dry skin conditions like eczema and psoriasis.	Brand change notified in August 2025
Liquid paraffin with white soft paraffin oint (pack size greater than 100 g)		Brand change notified in August 2025
Loratadine tab 10 mg	an antihistamine used to treat and prevent allergies such as hay fever	Brand change notified in August 2025
Losartan with hydrochlorothiazide tab 50 mg with hydrochlorothiazide 12.5 mg	used to treat high blood pressure (hypertension).	Brand change notified in July 2025
Methadone hydrochloride tab 5 mg	used for the relief of moderate to severe pain, for example pain caused by a terminal illness such as cancer.	Still under consideration
Methenamine (hexamine) Hippurate tab 1 g	used to prevent urinary tract infections (UTIs).	Still under consideration
Metoclopramide hydrochloride inj 5 mg per ml, 2 ml	used to help with certain stomach and digestive issues.	Brand change notified in July 2025
Mitomycin C inj 5 mg vial	a chemotherapy medicine used to treat cancers such as upper gastrointestinal cancers (like esophageal cancer), anal cancer, breast cancer and superficial bladder tumours	Decline notified in September 2025
Mitomycin C inj 20 mg vial		No brand change notified in September 2025

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
Noradrenaline inj 1 mg per ml, 4 ml ampoule	used in emergency situations to increase and maintain blood pressure in patients with severe low blood pressure (hypotension).	Brand change notified in July 2025
Pantoprazole tab EC 20 mg	used to treat problems affecting the stomach and gut, such as indigestion, reflux and ulcers.	No brand change
Pantoprazole tab EC 40 mg	used to treat problems affecting the stomach and gut, such as indigestion, reflux and ulcers.	No brand change
Paracetamol oral liq 120 mg per 5 ml	used to treat mild to moderate pain, such as headaches, toothaches, muscle aches, and to reduce fever.	Still under consideration
Paracetamol oral liq 250 mg per 5 ml		Still under consideration
Phenoxymethylpenicillin (penicillin V) grans for oral liq 125 mg per 5 ml	an antibiotic used to treat various bacterial infections.	No brand change notified in July 2025
Phenoxymethylpenicillin (penicillin V) grans for oral liq 250 mg per 5 ml		No brand change notified in July 2025
Pirfenidone tab 267 mg	used to treat idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, a condition in which the lungs become scarred and stiff, making it hard to breathe.	Brand change notified in September 2025
Pirfenidone tab 801 mg		Brand change notified in September 2025
Plerixafor inj 20 mg per ml	used for the mobilisation of haematopoietic stem cells to peripheral blood for collection and subsequent autologous or allogeneic transplantation in patients with lymphoma or multiple myeloma.	Brand change

Raltegravir potassium tab 600 mg	used for the treatment of HIV-1 infection in combination with other antiretroviral drugs.	Still under consideration
Rocuronium bromide inj 10 mg per ml, 5 ml	used as a muscle relaxant during surgery and other medical procedures.	Brand change notified in July 2025
Sertraline tab 50 mg	for various mental health conditions like major depressive disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), social anxiety disorder (SAD), and premenstrual dysphoric disorder (PMDD).	No brand change notified in September 2025
Sertraline tab 100 mg		No brand change notified in September 2025
Sodium chloride inj 0.9%, 3 ml, prefilled syringe	used to flush intravenous lines to prevent blockages and reduce the risk of infection.	Brand change notified in September 2025
Sodium chloride inj 0.9%, 5 ml, prefilled syringe		Brand change notified in September 2025
Sodium chloride inj 0.9%, 10 ml, prefilled syringe		Brand change notified in September 2025
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
Teriparatide inj 250 mcg per ml	used to treat osteoporosis (bone loss)	Still under consideration
Testosterone undecanoate inj 250 mg per ml	Long-acting form of testosterone that helps increase testosterone levels in the body.	Still under consideration
Thiamine hydrochloride tab 50 mg	used for the treatment and prophylaxis of vitamin B1 deficiency states including beriberi and Wernicke's encephalopathy.	Still under consideration
Varenicline tab 0.5 mg x 11 and 1 mg x 42	helps adults stop smoking.	Brand change notified in September 2025

Varenicline tab 1 mg		Brand change notified in September 2025
Water for injection purified for inj, 20 ml	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
Water for injection purified for inj, 500 ml bag		Still under consideration
Xylometazoline nasal spray 0.1%	used to help nasal congestion.	Still under consideration

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

## How your feedback helped

The feedback received was considered as part of the decision-making process. It has also informed how Pharmac will support people through the upcoming 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

Your feedback has helped to inform our implementation plans to support any brand changes.

Summary of feedback received [\[link\]](#)

## Who may be most interested

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

# Tender results

Pharmac has resolved to award tenders for Principal Supply Status for some medicines included in the 2024/25 Invitation to Tender dated 31 October 2024.

For decisions that will result in brand changes, 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 4 pm on the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2025 or the 5<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to listing, whichever is earlier
- **For price changes**, by 4 pm 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 (<http://www.pgnz.org.nz/about-us-1/Pharmacode>) 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 Tender – Principal Supply Status applies until 30 June 2028

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

The decisions were as follows:

1. *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
Citalopram hydrobromide	Tab 20 mg; 84 tablet blister pack	\$2.86	\$3.55	Celapram (Viatris)	1 December 2025	1 May 2026
Pantoprazole	Tab EC 20 mg; 90 tablet bottle pack	\$1.99	\$1.81	Panzop Relief (Viatris)	1 December 2025	1 May 2026
Pantoprazole	Tab EC 40 mg; 90 tablet bottle pack	\$2.74	\$2.70	Panzop Relief (Viatris)	1 December 2025	1 May 2026

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

The decisions were as follows:

2. *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
Citalopram hydrobromide	Tab 20 mg; 84 tablet blister pack	\$2.86	\$3.55	Celapram (Viatris)	1 December 2025	1 May 2026

Chemical name	Presentation; Pack size and type	Current pack price	New pack price	Principal Supply brand (Supplier)	Date of subsidy change	Principal Supply date
Pantoprazole	Tab EC 20 mg; 90 tablet bottle pack	\$1.99	\$1.81	Panzop Relief (Viatris)	1 December 2025	1 May 2026
Pantoprazole	Tab EC 40 mg; 90 tablet bottle pack	\$2.74	\$2.70	Panzop Relief (Viatris)	1 December 2025	1 May 2026

3. *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
Plerixafor	Inj 20 mg per ml; 1 vial	\$8,740.00	\$869.00	Plerixafor-AFT (AFT)	1 May 2026	1 October 2026	Mozobil (Sanofi)

### **Tender declines – Products where no tender is to be awarded for Principal Supply Status**

Pharmac has resolved not to award tenders for Principal Supply Status for the following products listed in the 2023/24 Invitation to Tender, dated 31 October 2023.

Chemical Name	Line Item
Irinotecan	Inj 20 mg per ml, 5 ml
Oxybutynin	Tab 5 mg
Pyridostigmine bromide	Tab 60 mg
Zonisamide	Cap 25 mg

Zonisamide	Cap 50 mg
Zonisamide	Cap 100 mg

Pharmac has resolved not to award tenders for Principal Supply Status for the following products listed in the 2024/25 Invitation to Tender, dated 31 October 2024.

Chemical Name	Line Item
Ethinylestradiol with levonorgestrel	Tab 20 mcg with levonorgestrel 100 mcg
Ethinylestradiol with levonorgestrel	Tab 30 mcg with levonorgestrel 150 mcg

For products included in the 2023/24 and 2024/25 Invitation to Tender where no announcement has yet been made, a decision is still pending subject to Pharmac Board (or its delegate) approval. We will keep you informed of any updates regarding such tender products as decisions are made.

If you have any queries regarding this notification, please contact Pharmac on 0800 66 00 50.

### **Zonisamide:**

In [July 2024](#) we consulted on funding zonisamide for the treatment of some forms of epilepsy (Developmental and Epileptic Encephalopathies (DEE) and focal epilepsy that has not responded to previous treatment) by awarding a contract through the ITT.

We are declining the 2023/24 zonisamide tender due to the need for further work before a decision can be made, along with time constraints that prevent timely implementation within the Principal Supply Status period. We are actively considering the commercial next steps for zonisamide. Funding zonisamide remains an option, as outlined in the public consultation. At this point we can't provide a definitive timeframe for when a decision will be made, but we will update you further as more information becomes available.

## Plerixafor:

Following stakeholder feedback and advice from our expert clinical advisors, we have made amendments to the Hospital Restriction Criteria for plerixafor. These changes will allow allogeneic stem cell donors to access this pharmaceutical through the Pharmaceutical Schedule and includes amendments to the peripheral blood CD34 count criteria and white blood cell count criteria. The Hospital Restriction Criteria for plerixafor will change from 1 January 2026 as follows: (additions in **bold**, deletions in strikethrough):

### Restricted

Initiation – Autologous stem cell transplant

*Re-assessment required after 3 days*

Prescribed by, or recommended by a haematologist, or in accordance with a protocol or guideline that has been endorsed by the Health NZ Hospital.

All of the following:

#### 1. **Either:**

1.1. Patient is to undergo stem cell transplantation; **or**

1.2. **Patient is a donor for stem cell transplantation;** and

2. Patient has not had **more than one** ~~a~~-previous unsuccessful mobilisation attempt with plerixafor; and

3. Any of the following:

3.1. Both:

3.1.1. Patient is undergoing G-CSF mobilisation; and

3.1.2. Either:

3.1.2.1. Has a suboptimal peripheral blood CD34 count of less than or equal to ~~4~~**20** × 10<sup>6</sup> /L on day 5 after 4 days of G-CSF treatment; or

3.1.2.2. Efforts to collect > 1 × 10<sup>6</sup> CD34 cells/kg have failed after one apheresis procedure; or

3.2. Both:

3.2.1. Patient is undergoing chemotherapy and G-CSF mobilisation; and

3.2.2. Any of the following:

3.2.2.1. Both:

3.2.2.1.1. Has rising white blood cell counts of > ~~5~~**2** × 10<sup>9</sup> /L; and

3.2.2.1.2. Has a suboptimal peripheral blood CD34 count of less than or equal to ~~4~~**20** × 10<sup>6</sup> /L; or

3.2.2.2. Efforts to collect > 1 × 10<sup>6</sup> CD34 cells/kg have failed after one apheresis procedure; or

3.2.2.3. The peripheral blood CD34 cell counts are decreasing before the target has been received; or

3.3. A previous mobilisation attempt with G-CSF or G-CSF plus chemotherapy has failed

## What you told us

Please see [the July 2025 Tender Notification II](#) for a summary of the key themes identified in the feedback received across both consultations.

In addition to the key themes identified, the table below outlines the additional themes identified in the feedback received for each specific medicine included in this notification.

Theme	Pharmac Comment
<b>Citalopram hydrobromide tablets</b>	
We received several pieces of feedback specific to antidepressants, including citalopram hydrobromide tablets. These themes have been outlined in the July 2025 Tender Notification.	<p>Thank you for providing feedback on a potential brand change for citalopram hydrobromide tablets.</p> <p>We are proposing to fund the incumbent brand; however, this feedback will be useful when considering future brand changes.</p>
<b>Pantoprazole tablets</b>	
We did not receive any feedback specific to pantoprazole that raised new themes beyond those already outlined in the July 2025 Tender Notification.	While there is no brand change to pantoprazole tabs, this feedback will be valuable for informing future decisions.
<b>Plerixafor injection</b>	
We did not receive any feedback specific to plerixafor that raised new themes beyond those already outlined in the July 2025 Tender Notification.	Key themes from both rounds of consultation, including general, and specific, brand change considerations, have been taken into account for this brand change.

If you have any questions about this decision, 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.