22 April 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

Discontinuation of Esbriet capsules 267mg formulation: listing of 267mg tablets

Roche Products (New Zealand) Limited ('Roche') in consultation with PHARMAC would like to inform you of the following.

Esbriet® (pirfenidone) capsules 267mg are being discontinued from the New Zealand market and will be replaced by Esbriet® (pirfenidone) film coated tablets 267mg.

Esbriet tablets 267mg will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 August 2021, and Esbriet capsules 267mg will be available until stock-out.

Esbriet® film coated tablets 801mg will remain available.

Due to a decrease in demand for the Esbriet capsule formulation, the decision to discontinue supply of Esbriet capsules 267mg was made globally by Roche to ensure continuity of supply of the tablet formulation.

This discontinuation is not related to any safety concerns.

This communication is to advise you that patients currently taking Esbriet capsules 267mg may be switched to Esbriet film coated tablets 267mg. The tablet 267mg and capsule 267mg formulations can be used interchangeably (bioequivalence has been shown as stated in the prescribing information).

The only notable difference between the capsules 267mg and film coated tablets 267mg will be the pack size. Currently capsules 267mg are available as a 270 pack, whereas the film coated tablets 267mg will be available as a 90 pack. Per milligram pricing will remain consistent.

Table 1. Changes to Pharmaceutical Schedule

Action	Date of Effect	Brand	Formulation	Pharmacode	List Price
Discontinued	From 1 August 2021, until stock-out	Esbriet	Capsules 267mg x 270	2505932	$3,645
Introduced	1 August 2021	Esbriet	Tablets 267mg x 90	2602156	$1,215

Further Information

If you have any questions or require additional information/materials regarding the use of Esbriet please contact Roche Medical Information by telephone on 0800 276 243 or by email at auckland.medinfo@roche.com.

Roche Products (New Zealand) Limited
98 Carlton Gore Road
Newmarket
Auckland 1023
PO Box 109113
Newmarket, Auckland 1149
New Zealand
Phone +64 9 523 9400
Fax +64 9 523 9465
Toll Free 0800 656 464

Reporting Adverse Events
Roche will continue to monitor the safety of Esbriet through established reporting mechanisms and notify regulatory authorities as per current regulations. You can assist us in monitoring the safety of Esbriet by reporting suspected adverse events via email to the Roche Drug Safety department nz.drugsafety@roche.com.

Sincerely,

Guy Barrow
Product Strategy Director
Roche Products (New Zealand) Limited

References

1. Esbriet Approved Product Information. Available at: https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/profs/datasheet/e/esbrietcap.pdf
2. Esbriet Consumer Medicine Information. Available at: https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/consumers/cmi/e/esbriet.pdf

Roche Products (New Zealand) Limited
98 Carlton Gore Road
Newmarket
Auckland 1023
PO Box 109113
Newmarket, Auckland 1149
New Zealand
Phone +64 9 523 9400
Fax +64 9 523 9465
Toll Free 0800 656 464