

18 October 2012

Approval of proposal relating to tolterodine, levonorgestrel 750 µg tablets and venlafaxine 225 mg tablets.

PHARMAC is pleased to announce that the approval of an agreement with Arrow Pharmaceuticals Limited. This was the subject of a consultation letter dated 26 September 2012. <http://pharmac.govt.nz/2012/09/26?q=tolterodine>

The proposal was approved as consulted upon in its entirety and a summary of the decision is provided below.

Details of the proposal

Tolterodine

- From 1 November 2012, Arrow's brand of tolterodine (Arrow-Tolterodine) will be listed in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at the following prices and subsidies (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST) follows:

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Price and subsidy
Tolterodine	Tab 1 mg	Arrow-Tolterodine	56	\$14.56
Tolterodine	Tab 2 mg	Arrow-Tolterodine	56	\$14.56

- Tolterodine will be subject to the following Special Authority restriction:

Special Authority for Subsidy

Initial application only from a relevant practitioner. Approvals valid without further renewal, unless notified, where the patient has overactive bladder and a documented intolerance of oxybutynin.

- Tolterodine will have delisting and subsidy protection until 1 July 2013.

Venlafaxine 225 mg and Levonorgestrel 750 µg

- From 1 January 2013, Arrow's brands of levonorgestrel (Next Choice) and venlafaxine modified release tablet (Arrow-Venlafaxine XR) will be listed in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at the following prices and subsidies (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST) follows:

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Price and subsidy
Venlafaxine	Tab 225 mg	Arrow-Venlafaxine XR	28	\$35.12
Levonorgestrel	Tab 750 µg	Next Choice	2	\$12.50

- Venlafaxine 225 mg would be funded in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule subject to the same Special Authority restrictions as the currently funded strengths of venlafaxine extended release capsules (Efexor XR) and tablets (Arrow-Venlafaxine XR);
- Delisting and subsidy protection for all strengths of Arrow-Venlafaxine XR would be extended to 1 April 2017; and
- Future price reductions for Arrow-Venlafaxine XR 225 mg tab (28 pack) will be as follows:

Price and subsidy from 1 July 2013	Price and subsidy from 1 July 2014
\$27.14	\$19.03

- A confidential rebate will apply to Next Choice;
- Next Choice will have subsidy and delisting protection until 1 July 2013.

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 October 2012 were considered in their entirety in making a decision on the proposed changes. Most responses were supportive of the proposal, and the following issues were raised in relation to specific aspects of the proposal:

Theme	Comment
The confidential rebate on levonorgestrel does not maximise the advantage for DHBs where emergency contraceptive services are provided via the community pharmacy.	The pharmacy services discussed in this response are inconsistent with the Pharmaceutical Schedule rules. PHARMAC are working with DHBs to investigate the potential to develop an Autonomous Service and Provision of pharmaceuticals by pharmacists. If approved this would resolve the issue identified.
Two respondents commented that they did not want the single tablet levonorgestrel 1.5 mg tablet to be delisted.	This proposal has no direct effect on the availability of the single dose tablet.

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.