

21 February 2013

## Amendment to the terms of listing of Accu-Chek Performa blood glucose test strips approved

PHARMAC wish to announce that the approval of an agreement with Roche Diagnostics New Zealand Ltd. This was the subject of a consultation letter dated 29 January 2013. In summary, the effect of the decision is that:

- Accu-Chek Performa blood glucose test strips will be fully funded for people who were using (and continue to use) an Accu-Chek Combo insulin pump prior to 1 June 2012;
- Special Authority applications for funding, which provide evidence of eligibility, will be considered by PHARMAC;
- The price and subsidy of Accu-Chek Performa will increase from 1 March 2013 to \$28.75 per 50 test strips (ex-manufacturer; excl. GST).

### Details of the proposal

- The price and subsidy for Accu-Chek Performa blood glucose test strips in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule will be increased from 1 March 2013 as follows:

Pharmaceutical	Brand	Form	Pack size	Current Price and subsidy (ex-man; excl. GST)	Proposed Price and subsidy (ex-man; excl. GST)
Blood glucose diagnostic test strip	Accu-Chek Performa	Test strip	50 test OP	\$21.65	\$28.75

- The following Special Authority criteria will apply from 1 March 2013:

Special Authority for Subsidy. Application by any relevant practitioner. Approval valid for 5 years for applications meeting the following criteria:

Both:

1. The patient is using an Accu-Chek Combo insulin pump; and
2. The applying clinician has:
  - 2.1 a record of prescribing the Accu-Chek Performa blood glucose test strips to the patient, as their primary test strip for blood glucose, prior to 1 June 2012; and
  - 2.2 evidence that the patient was using an Accu-Chek Combo insulin pump prior to 1 June 2012.

Applications to be sent to PHARMAC with copies of applicable records or evidence, as mentioned in 2.1 and 2.2 above, in addition to the Serial Number of the Accu-Chek Combo pump being used.

Patients who have transitioned to a funded insulin pumps (Animas or Medtronic) will not be eligible for funded Accu-Chek Performa blood glucose test strips. Applications will only be considered for patients who are using an Accu-Chek Combo insulin pump on the date of application.

Special Authority forms may be obtained from the PHARMAC website at [www.pharmac.govt.nz](http://www.pharmac.govt.nz) and applications sent to [bgstrips@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:bgstrips@pharmac.govt.nz).

### 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 February 2013 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
How will PHARMAC control the use of test strips?	PHARMAC is aware that approximately 100 patients were using a Combo pump prior to June 2012. Eligible patients will be able to access quantities of test strips considered clinically appropriate by their clinician.
How does the supplier justify a 33% price increase?	PHARMAC cannot comment on Roche's reasoning for increasing its price. PHARMAC considers that subsidising Performa test strips at an increased price is manageable for this small group of patients.

### 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.