

19 April 2013

May 2013 Pharmaceutical Schedule Dispatch

This document is provided to pharmacists as an early notification of the changes to be announced in the **May 2013** Update to the Pharmaceutical Schedule. Please notify PHARMAC (0800 66 00 50) to change or remove your contact details.

New listings

- Perindopril (Apo-Perindopril) tab 2 mg (p'code 2437147) and 4 mg (p'code 2437155)
- Clonidine hydrochloride (Clonidine BNM) tab 25 mcg (p'code 2432684)
- Metolazone (Zaroxolyn) tab 5 mg – S29 – Special Authority – Retail pharmacy (p'code 2438232)
- Hydralazine hydrochloride (Onelink) tab 25 mg – S29 – Special Authority – Retail pharmacy (p'code 2438224)
- Lidocaine [lignocaine] hydrochloride (Lidocaine-Claris) inj 2%, 5ml (p'code 2427281) and 2%, 20 ml (p'code 2427303)
- Pharmacy services (BSF Apo-Diltiazem CD) Brand switch fee (p'code 2437775)

Changes to restrictions

- Perindopril (Coversyl) tab 2 mg and 4 mg removal of higher subsidy by endorsement
- Trandolapril (Gopten) cap 1 mg and 2 mg rewording of higher subsidy by endorsement
- Diltiazem hydrochloride (Apo-Diltiazem CD) cap long-acting 120 mg, 180 mg and 240 mg addition of brand switch fee payable
- Ciprofloxacin tab 250 mg, 500 mg and 750 – amendment to restriction
- Clindamycin cap hydrochloride 150 mg and inj phosphate 150 mg per ml, 4 ml – amendment to restriction
- Itraconazole cap 100 mg – amendment to restriction
- Isoniazid tab 100 mg, tab 100 mg with rifampicin 150 mg and tab 150 mg with rifampicin 300 mg – amendment to restriction
- Lignocaine hydrochloride to lidocaine [lignocaine] hydrochloride – amendment to chemical name

Increased subsidy

Chemical	Presentation	Fully subsidised brands	Partially subsidised brands
Perindopril	Tab 2 mg and 4 mg	Apo-Perindopril	Coversyl

Decreased subsidy

Chemical	Presentation	Fully subsidised brands	Partially subsidised brands
Levonorgestrel	Tab 1.5 mg	Postinor-1 Next Choice*	
Codeine phosphate	Tab 15 mg, 30 mg and 60 mg	PSM	
Amisulpride	Tab 100 mg, 200 mg, 400 mg and oral liq 100 mg per ml	Solian	

* no subsidy changes for these brands

Amendment to restrictions for ciprofloxacin tablets and clindamycin

Changes to the restrictions on some antibiotics were made last month (1 April 2013) to reflect proposed new prescribing rules in hospitals which will take effect from 1 July 2013. From 1 May these are being amended as follows:

- For ciprofloxacin, the endorsement restriction will be removed from all tablet presentations and will be replaced by a prescribing guideline.
- For clindamycin, the specified specialist type will be removed, but the Retail pharmacy-Specialist restriction will remain.

These changes are being made to allow prescribers more time to implement appropriate changes to their prescribing practices and we will work with the sector to do this.

Whilst this change doesn't come into effect until 1 May 2013, we would encourage pharmacists to apply these changes to current prescriptions. Audit and Compliance at Sector Services are aware of PHARMAC's recommendation.

This will reduce the administrative burden for pharmacists and cost to patients.

Please contact PHARMAC at 0800 66 00 50 if you have any questions regarding this rule change.