

Special Authority approvals for Freestyle Optium blood glucose diagnostic test strips

As part of the PHARMAC decision regarding changes to the blood glucose diagnostic test strips, Freestyle Optium blood glucose strips will be funded subject to Special Authority criteria from 1 March 2013. Patients who were using both subsidised Freestyle Optium blood glucose test strips and Freestyle Optium blood ketone test strips prior to 1 June 2012 are eligible to continue using funded Freestyle Optium blood glucose test strips.

PHARMAC has requested that the Ministry of Health Sector Services (MoH-SS) identify eligible patients from claims data and provide them with a Special Authority for subsidy from 1 March 2013.

The MoH-SS will be automatically issuing Special Authority approval numbers for these patients. The approvals will be processed by MOH-SS in late February 2013 and approval letters will be sent to you soon after (an individual letter for each patient). A preliminary letter advising doctors of eligible patients will be sent in early February to provide advance notice.

From the date of processing, the MoH-SS Contact Centre can be called to confirm approval numbers (0800 243 666) and the Special Authority online service can be utilised by pharmacists.

Applications for patients who have not been identified and 'auto-approved' through claims data will be considered by PHARMAC. Details of subsidised dispensings for both FreeStyle Optium blood glucose test strips and Freestyle Optium blood ketone test strips prior to June 2012 would need to be provided with each application. Application details may be obtained from PHARMAC's website <http://www.pharmac.govt.nz> from 1 March 2013.

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Special Authority for Subsidy

Initial application – from any relevant practitioner. Approvals valid without further renewal unless notified for applications meeting the following criteria:

Both:

1. Patient was testing both for blood ketones and blood glucose using the FreeStyle Optium (previously named Optium Xceed) blood glucose meter prior to 1 June 2012; and
2. Patient has received one or more subsidised prescriptions for FreeStyle Optium (previously Optium Xceed) Blood Ketone test strips prior to 1 June 2012.

Note: Patients eligible for subsidy for FreeStyle Optium blood glucose test strips have been identified and Special Authorities issued automatically for those patients.

Applications for patients not identified through this process will be considered by PHARMAC with details/receipts of subsidised dispensings for both FreeStyle Optium blood glucose test strips and Freestyle Optium blood ketone test strips prior to June 2012.

Application details may be obtained from PHARMAC's website <http://www.pharmac.govt.nz>