

9 March 2010

Approval of agreement with Allergan for bimatoprost, brimonidine tartrate with timolol maleate and prednisolone actate

PHARMAC is pleased to announce the approval of an agreement with Allergan Australia Pty Ltd relating to the listing of bimatoprost, brimonidine tartrate with timolol maleate and prednisolone actate. This was the subject of a consultation letter dated 12 February 2010. In summary, the effect of the decision to approve the agreement is that:

- Bimatoprost (Lumigan) eye drops will remain fully funded - a confidential rebate will apply;
- Brimonidine tartrate with timolol maleate (Combigan) eye drops will remain fully funded - a confidential rebate will apply; and
- Prednisolone acetate (Pred Mild and Pred Forte) eye drops will be fully funded (the manufacturer's surcharge will be removed).

Details of the proposal

Bimatoprost

- Bimatoprost (Lumigan) will remain fully funded in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at the current price and subsidy (ex-manufacturer, exclusive of GST):

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Price and subsidy
Bimatoprost	Eye drops 0.03 %	Lumigan	3 ml OP	\$19.50

- Lumigan will be protected from subsidy reduction or delisting until 30 June 2012; and
- A confidential rebate will apply to Lumigan.

Brimonidine tartrate with timolol maleate

- Brimonidine tartrate with timolol maleate (Combigan) will remain fully funded in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at the current price and subsidy (ex-manufacturer, exclusive of GST):

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Price and subsidy
Brimonidine tartrate with timolol maleate	Eye drops 0.2% with timolol maleate 0.5%	Combigan	5 ml OP	\$18.50

- Combigan will be protected from subsidy reduction or delisting until 30 June 2012; and

- A confidential rebate will apply to Combigan.

Prednisolone acetate eye drops

- The price for prednisolone acetate eye drops (Pred Mild and Pred Forte) will reduce to the current subsidy level, from 1 April 2010, so that they are fully funded in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at the following prices and subsidies (ex-manufacturer, exclusive of GST):

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Price and subsidy
Prednisolone acetate	Eye drops 0.12%	Pred Mild	5 ml OP	\$4.50
Prednisolone acetate	Eye drops 1%	Pred Forte	5 ml OP	\$4.50

- Pred Mild and Pred Forte will be protected from subsidy reduction or delisting until 30 June 2012.

Feedback received

We appreciate all of the feedback that we received and acknowledge the time people took to respond. All consultation responses received by 26 February 2010 were considered in their entirety in making a decision on the proposed changes. In general most responses were highly supportive. We note that the consultation also contained a reference to the proposal to reference price the subsidy for travoprost to the new price for latanoprost (Hysite). This proposal is still under consideration and any decision on it will be announced separately.

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.