

22 September 2011

## Proposal relating to betamethasone dipropionate with calcipotriol, calcipotriol, fusidic acid and bumetanide.

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal to fund betamethasone dipropionate with calcipotriol (Daivobet) through a provisional agreement with CSL Biotherapies (NZ) Limited. This proposal would also amend the terms of listing of calcipotriol (Daivonex), fusidic acid (Fucidin and Fucithalmic) and bumetanide (Burinex) through the same provisional agreement.

All proposed changes would be implemented from 1 December 2011.

In summary, the effect of this proposal would be as follows:

- Betamethasone dipropionate with calcipotriol (Daivobet) ointment and gel would be funded.
- The price and subsidy for calcipotriol (Daivonex) cream, ointment and solution would be reduced, remaining full subsidised.
- The price for fusidic acid (Fucithalmic) eye drops would be reduced to the current subsidy resulting in Fucithalmic being fully subsidised.
- Fusidic acid (Fucidin) tablets and bumetanide (Burinex) tablets would remain fully subsidised at the current price.
- All pharmaceuticals in the proposal would have subsidy and delisting protection until 30 June 2015.

Further details, including how to provide feedback on this proposal, can be found below and on the following pages.

### Feedback sought

PHARMAC welcomes feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback, please submit it in writing by **Thursday, 6 October 2011** to:

Greg Williams  
Therapeutic Group Manager  
PHARMAC

Email: [Greg.Williams@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:Greg.Williams@pharmac.govt.nz)  
Fax: 04 460 4995  
Post: PO Box 10 254, Wellington 6143

All feedback received before the closing date will be considered by PHARMAC's Board (or Acting Chief Executive acting under delegated authority) prior to making a decision on this proposal.

## Details of the proposal

All proposed changes would occur from 1 December 2011.

### Betamethasone dipropionate with calcipotriol (Daivobet)

Daivobet ointment and gel would be listed in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule as follows (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Product	Brand	Form and Strength	Pack Size	Proposed price and subsidy
Betamethasone with calcipotriol	Daivobet	Oint 500 µg with calcipotriol 50 µg	30 g OP	\$26.12
Betamethasone with calcipotriol	Daivobet	Gel 500 µg with calcipotriol 50 µg	30 g OP	\$26.12

Daivobet would have subsidy and delisting protection until 30 June 2015.

### Calcipotriol (Daivonex)

Daivonex cream, ointment and solution would have price and subsidy reductions for all presentations in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule, as follows (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Product	Brand	Form and Strength	Pack Size	Current price and subsidy	Proposed price and subsidy
Calcipotriol	Daivonex	Crn 50 µg per g	30 g OP	\$20.20	\$16.00
Calcipotriol	Daivonex	Crn 50 µg per g	100 g OP	\$56.32	\$45.00
Calcipotriol	Daivonex	Oint 50 µg per g	100 g OP	\$56.32	\$45.00
Calcipotriol	Daivonex	Soln 50 µg per g	30 ml OP	\$20.22	\$16.00

Daivonex would have subsidy and delisting protection until 30 June 2015.

### Fusidic acid (Fucithalamic) eye drops

The price of Fucithalamic eye drops would reduce in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule to the level of the current subsidy, as follows (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Product	Brand	Form and Strength	Pack Size	Current subsidy (price)	Proposed price and subsidy
---------	-------	-------------------	-----------	-------------------------	----------------------------

Fusidic acid	Fucithalmic	Eye drops 1%	5 g OP	\$4.50 (\$11.52)	\$4.50
--------------	-------------	--------------	--------	---------------------	--------

---

Fucithalmic eye drops would have subsidy and delisting protection until 30 June 2015.

*Fusidic acid (Fucidin) and bumetanide (Burinex)*

Fucidin and Burinex tablets would continue to be listed in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule, as follows (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Product	Brand	Form and Strength	Pack Size	Current price and subsidy	Proposed price and subsidy
Fusidic acid	Fucidin	Tab 250 mg	12	\$34.50	\$34.50
Bumetanide	Burinex	Tab 1 mg	100	\$16.36	\$16.36

Fucidin tablets and Burinex tablets would have subsidy and delisting protection until 30 June 2015.

**Background**

In response to PHARMAC's consultation on the proposed 2011/12 Invitation to Tender product list, CSL Biotherapies (NZ) Limited submitted an alternative commercial proposal (ACP) involving betamethasone dipropionate with calcipotriol, calcipotriol, fusidic acid and bumetanide. This ACP forms the basis of PHARMAC's provisional agreement with CSL and would result in the funding of Daivobet, Daivonex, Fucithalmic, Fucidin and Burinex until at least 30 June 2015.

The Pharmacological and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (PTAC) reviewed an application for listing of Daivobet at its July 2008 meeting. The full minute relating to Daivobet can be found on the PHARMAC website [at www.pharmac.govt.nz/2008/10/08](http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/2008/10/08). PTAC recommended that Daivobet be listed on the Pharmaceutical Schedule only if it was cost-neutral compared to the individual components of calcipotriol and betamethasone dipropionate. We estimate that the proposal would represent a saving to the Pharmaceutical Schedule.