

Pharmaceutical Management Agency

Clinicians' Newsletter



*“Make life easier,
always think generically”*

January 2012

Widening / Restriction of Access

Gestrinone 2.5 mg tablets to be discontinued

Gestrinone is used primarily for the management of endometriosis; however from approximately August 2012 Sanofi-Aventis has notified us of its intention to discontinue Dimetrose (gestrinone) 2.5 mg tablets. This follows the current global trend which is seeing the discontinuation of the active ingredient. Stock supply currently available will expire at the end of October 2012.

Brand Changes

Paracetamol 500 mg tablets – Pharmacare to Parafast

On the 1st April 2012 the new fully subsidised brand of paracetamol 500mg tablets will be Parafast and the Pharmacare brand will be delisted. As long as you prescribe paracetamol simply as “paracetamol” rather than by the brand name, this will cause no disruption to your patients as the fully subsidised brand must be dispensed by the pharmacy.

When a brand change like this is made there is a change over period during which both brands are funded to the same level (the subsidy is that of the new brand). This “transition period” will run from the 1st January to 31st March and the incumbent, Pharmacare, have announced that they will drop their price to that subsidy level during the transition period.

New bottle for Ethics Paracetamol oral liquid 120 mg per 5 ml

Multichem, the supplier of Ethics Paracetamol oral liquid 120 mg per 5 ml, will be changing the bottle it is supplied in from approximately March 2012. The new bottle will have a narrower neck which will fit a safety cap.

Omezol Relief – the new Omeprazole

From 1 January 2012 Omezol Relief 10 mg, 20 mg and 40 mg capsules will be the Sole Subsidised Supply brand of omeprazole. The Dr Reddy’s Omeprazole brand will be delisted from 1 January 2012.

New gemcitabine hydrochloride 1 g injection

Due to an out-of-stock on the Hospital Supply Status brand of the Pharmaceutical Cancer Treatment gemcitabine hydrochloride 1 g injection (Gemctiabine Ebewe) the DBL Gemcitabine brand was listed from 14 December 2011. Funding for gemcitabine hydrochloride carries the restriction of PCT only – Specialist and is subject to Special Authority approval.

Daclin to Aclin

Mylan are changing the brand name and pack size for sulindac 100 mg and 200 mg tablets from Daclin to Aclin from 1 January 2012. The new Aclin brand will be available in bottles of 50 tablets. Daclin will be delisted from 1 July 2012. If scripts are written as sulindac there will be no confusion.



New Listings

New brand of atorvastatin subsidised

The Dr Reddy's brand of atorvastatin 10 mg, 20 mg, 40 mg and 80 mg tablets will be subsidised from 1 January 2012. Please note that this listing is an alternative brand and does not affect the subsidy for Lipitor at this time.

Delays for Clarithromycin 500 mg tablets

The Apotex brand of clarithromycin 500 mg tablets (Apo-Clarithromycin) was listed fully subsidised from 1 November 2011 as a result of a Tender agreement. Due to a potential out-of-stock, reference pricing and Sole Supply has been delayed. Supplies of Apo-Clarithromycin 500 mg tablets will be in the market late December 2011. Reference pricing will occur on Klamycin tab 500 mg from 1 March 2012 and Apo-Clarithromycin tab 500 mg will have Sole Supply Status from 1 June 2012. Klamycin tab 500 mg will be delisted from 1 June 2012. Apo-Clarithromycin 500 mg tablets will have Hospital Sole Supply from 1 April 2012. Please note that this delay does not effect the Tender timelines for clarithromycin 250 mg tablets.

Delays for Cefaclor Monohydrate 250 mg Capsules

Cefaclor Sandoz brand of cefaclor monohydrate cap 250 mg was listed fully subsidised from 1 March 2011 as a result of a Tender agreement. Last month we notified via the December 2011 Update that reference pricing and Sole Supply would occur early to mid 2012. This decision has been delayed again due to supply issues. We will notify the market when we have confirmation of listing, reference price and sole supply and delisting dates.

Subsidy Changes

Some subsidy and restriction changes will occur to some respiratory inhalers from 1 February 2012. The changes are summarised below:

- Removal of the Special Authority requirement for patients to be on separate ICS and LABA inhalers for at least three months prior to being eligible for funded combination inhalers.
- Fully funding fluticasone powder for inhalation (Flixotide Accuhaler).
- Reduction in the subsidies payable for:
 - a) budesonide with eformoterol ICS and LABA combination inhalers (Symbicort Turbuhaler and Vannair) to the net level of subsidy for the individual fluticasone (Flixotide) and salmeterol (Serevent) inhalers; and
 - b) eformoterol fumarate (Oxis and Foradil) inhalers to the net level of subsidy for the salmeterol (Serevent) inhalers.

The reduction in subsidy will result in manufacturer's surcharges for Symbicort Turbuhaler, Vannair, Oxis Turbuhaler and Foradil should the suppliers not reduce their prices to match the new subsidies. Alternative fully funded products will include fluticasone with salmeterol (Seretide, Seretide Accuhaler) and salmeterol (Serevent and Serevent Accuhaler).

To assist the implementation of these changes Symbicort Turbuhaler and Oxis Turbuhaler will remain fully funded for existing patients (patients dispensed Symbicort Turbuhaler or Oxis Turbuhaler prior to 1 July 2011) until 1 February 2012. Repeat dispensings for prescriptions with a first dispensing before 1 February 2012 will also be fully funded. This will give clinicians and patients time to make a change to fully funded pharmaceuticals in the event that the supplier does not reduce its prices and patients wish to receive a fully funded product.

Please refer to the full Notification located on the PHARMAC website for further details. <http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/healthpros/notification>

Changes to Schedule Rules

Dentist controlled drug prescriptions clarification

Some changes were implemented via the Medicines Amendment Regulations 2011 from 1 December 2011. These amendments included changes to dentists period of supply. We have received some queries on how this applies to the subsidy periods for controlled drugs.

There have been no changes to the period of supply for controlled drugs as the Misuse of Drugs Act and Regulations have not been amended. According to the Misuse of Drugs Regulations 1977, dentists may prescribe up to 7 days supply of a controlled drug (including a Class C controlled drug) for a patient under their care. Only 5 days supply of a controlled drug will be subsidised when it is prescribed by a dentist.

Electronic Special Authority applications for Standard Supplements

Special Authority applications for the Special Food category Standard Supplements, form number SA1104, will be able to be processed electronically for all application categories from 1 January 2012. Electronic Special Authorities for the "Adults" initial application criteria have been unable to be processed electronically. As part of the electronic Special Authority maintenance by the Ministry of Health this has been fixed and electronic applications can now be made.



PHARMAC Seminar Series 2012

The PHARMAC Seminar Series provides high quality educational seminars for a range of health professionals. The seminars are held in Wellington and the cost to attend is \$100 + GST. PHARMAC covers the cost of travel, including flights, to and from the seminar and provides catering on the day.

<http://seminarseries.pharmac.govt.nz/>

Date	Topic	Description
20 February 2012	Clinical Pharmacology for Nurses	Nurses involved in patient medication management and those looking to update their knowledge and understanding on how drugs work.
05 March 2012	Red Rash Made Easy	GP's, Nurses, Pharmacists and other front line health professionals dealing with clinical patients
29 March 2012	Assessing and Managing the Newborn	This is a repeat seminar
18 May 2012	Polypharmacy Care of the Older Person	General practitioners, pharmacists and nurses working with patients on complex medication regimens.

inPharmation

PHARMAC publishes a quarterly email newsletter, inPharmation, that includes news and updates on developments around PHARMAC and pharmaceutical issues. If you would like to receive inPharmation, contact simon.England@pharmac.govt.nz



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Special Authority Queries: 0800 243 666
General Questions: 0800 66 00 50 (9am – 5pm Monday to Friday)

Online version of Prescriber newsletter:
<http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/healthpros/CliniciansNews>

InPharmation newsletter:
<http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/patients/ourviews/inpharmation>.

Newsletter feedback: email rochelle.harker@pharmac.govt.nz

Please note this is not a complete reference to all changes occurring from 1 December 2011, for the full reference; please consult your Update to the Pharmaceutical Schedule.

