

18 January 2012

February 2012 Pharmaceutical Schedule Dispatch

This document is provided to pharmacists as an early notification of the changes to be announced in the **February 2012** Update to the Pharmaceutical Schedule. Please notify PHARMAC (0800 66 00 50) to change or remove your contact details.

New listings

- Cefuroxime sodium (Mylan) inj 1.5 g – Retail pharmacy-Specialist – subsidy by endorsement (p'code 2390434)
- Pharmacy Services (BSF Bicalaccord) brand switch fee (p'code 2397137)

Changes to restrictions

- Insulin glargine – removal of prescriber note
- Bicalutamide (Bicalaccord) tab 50 mg – brand switch fee
- Bortezomib – amended Special Authority criteria
- Inhaled corticosteroids with long-acting beta-adrenoreceptor agonists- amended Special Authority criteria
- Eformoterol fumarate (Oxis Turbuhaler, Foradil) – removal of endorsement for full subsidy, repeats fully subsidised where initial dispensing is prior to 1 February 2012
- Budesonide with eformoterol (Symbicort Turbuhaler, Vannair) – removal of endorsement for full subsidy
- Sodium chloride (Biomed) soln 7% - amended subsidy restriction
- Sodium bicarbonate (Midwest, David Craig) powder BP – subsidised in lansoprazole suspension

Decreased subsidy

Chemical	Presentation	Fully subsidised brands	Partially subsidised brands
Sodium chloride	Inj 0.9%, 10 ml	Multichem Pfizer*	
Cefaclor monohydrate	Cap 250 mg	Ranbaxy Cefaclor Cefaclor Sandoz*	
Ibuprofen	Tab 200 mg Tab 400 mg Tab 600 mg	Ethics Ibuprofen Arrowcare	Brufen Brufen
Eformoterol fumarate	Powder for inhalation 6 µg per dose, breath activated Powder for inhalation, 12 µg per dose an monodose device		Oxis Turbuhaler Foradil
Budesonide with eformoterol	Aerosol inhaler 100 µg with eformoterol fumarate 6 µg Aerosol inhaler 200 µg with eformoterol fumarate 6 µg	Vannair Vannair	

* Note, there is no subsidy change for this brand.

Increased subsidy

Chemical	Presentation	Fully subsidised brands
Benzotropine mesylate	Inj 1 mg per ml, 2 ml	Cogentin
Fluticasone	Powder for inhalation, 50 µg per dose	Flixotide Accuhaler
Budesonide with eformoterol	Powder for inhalation 100 µg with eformoterol fumarate 6 µg Powder for inhalation 200 µg with eformoterol fumarate 6 µg Powder for inhalation 400 µg with eformoterol fumarate 12 µg	Symbicort Turbuhaler 100/6 Symbicort Turbuhaler 200/6 Symbicort Turbuhaler 400/12

Subsidy changes for some respiratory inhalation products and access restrictions to combination inhalers

From 1 February 2012 subsidy and restriction changes will occur to some respiratory inhalation products. These changes vary from those summarised in previous notifications. The changes are summarised below:

- 1) **Widening of access to combination inhalers** by removing the requirement for patients to be on separate ICS and LABA inhalers for at least three months prior to being eligible for funded combination inhalers via Special Authority. Please note a Special Authority approval number is still required to gain full subsidy for combination inhalers.
- 2) From the 1st of February 2012 there will be **full funding** for all patients for budesonide with eformoterol via Special Authority - all strengths of **Vannair and Symbicort Turbuhaler**. This applies to both new and existing patients.
- 3) From the 1st of February 2012 there will be a **reduction in subsidy** for eformoterol fumarate which will result in manufacturer's surcharges for **Oxis Turbuhaler and Foradil**. To assist with the implementation of these changes, repeat dispensing for Oxis Turbuhaler and Foradil where the initial dispensing of that prescription was before 1 February 2012, will be fully funded. Subsequent prescriptions will incur a part charge.
This will give clinicians and patients time to make a medication change should patients wish to receive a fully funded product.
- 4) **Flixotide Accuhaler** (powder for inhalation), all strengths will be **fully subsidised** from 1 February 2012. Previous to this date, these pharmaceuticals carried a part charge.

These changes have previously been notified to the market. Please refer to the full Notification located on the PHARMAC website for further details.

<http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/healthpros/notification>

NB. For further details and magnitude of the above subsidy changes, please consult the online version of the Update to the Pharmaceutical Schedule at: www.pharmac.govt.nz/healthpros/Schedule.