Two brands of rituximab funded

Key details

- There's a 9-month transition timeframe to allow hospitals to transition usage from Mabthera to Riximyo.
- Rituximab needs to be prescribed by brand to ensure the correct brand is used.
- There are two different Special Authorities, one for the Riximyo brand and one for the Mabthera brand; prescribers need to ensure they apply for the correct Special Authority.

Riximyo is Medsafe approved

Medsafe has granted approval for Riximyo to be distributed in New Zealand.

Medsafe recommends prescribers are involved in transitioning patients between brands of biological medicines. You can find Medsafe's position statement on biosimilar medicines on the Medsafe website **www.medsafe.govt.nz**

Compounding

Published data supports extended stability of compounded Riximyo.

'Provided aseptic working conditions, the stability of the rituximab biosimilar Riximyo is maintained after dilution in saline solution infusion bags over a 31-day period.'

Lamanna et al. J Oncol Pharm Practice 2017;25(2):269-78)

Between **1 March 2020 to 1 December 2020** we will be transitioning patients from Mabthera to Riximyo.

- **Riximyo** is the newly funded brand and will be funded for people using rituximab for all conditions except rheumatoid arthritis.
- **Mabthera** is the currently funded brand and will remain funded for people with rheumatoid arthritis.

If you have any questions contact

Clinical advice on Riximyo

In October 2019, the Cancer Treatments Subcommittee of PTAC reviewed clinical data for Riximyo (biosimilar rituximab supplied by Novartis).

- CaTSoP considered the comparability of Riximyo and Mabthera has been sufficiently demonstrated with regard to physicochemical characteristics, pharmacology, efficacy and safety outcomes.
- CaTSop considered the clinical evidence for comparability is of good quality and supports the use of Riximyo for all funded indications.

If an individual patient is unable to use the new Riximyo brand of rituximab for a clinical reason, and further treatment with rituximab is clinically appropriate, PHARMAC will consider a Named Patient Pharmaceutical Assessment (NPPA) application from a clinician for the Mabthera brand of rituximab.

PHARMAC
TE PĀTAKA WHAIORANGA