

Appendix 2

Consultation letter and responses

27 May 2005

To All Pharmaceutical Suppliers, Hospital Pharmacists, Medical Groups and Interested Parties

By facsimile (1 page)

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSAL TO SUBSIDISE OXYCODONE CAPSULES AND CONTROLLED-RELEASE TABLETS

PHARMAC has entered into a provisional agreement with Mundipharma New Zealand Limited for the listing of oxycodone capsules (OxyNorm) and controlled-release tablets (OxyContin) in Sections B and H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule.

Oxycodone would be listed in Section B and part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 August 2005 at the following prices and subsidies:

Presentation	Brand	Strength	Pack Size	Price/Subsidy
Capsules	OxyNorm	5 mg	20	\$2.83
Capsules	OxyNorm	10 mg	20	\$5.58
Capsules	OxyNorm	20 mg	20	\$9.77
Controlled-release tablets	OxyContin	10 mg	20	\$11.14
Controlled-release tablets	OxyContin	20 mg	20	\$18.93
Controlled-release tablets	OxyContin	40 mg	20	\$33.29
Controlled-release tablets	OxyContin	80 mg	20	\$58.03

The following presentation would be listed in Section B and part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at the following price and subsidy as soon as is practicable, should regulatory approval and other consents be granted.

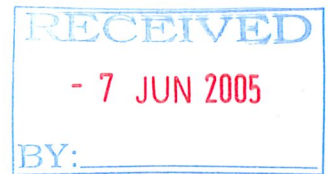
Presentation	Brand	Strength	Pack Size	Price/Subsidy
Controlled-release tablets	OxyContin	5 mg	20	\$7.51

It is anticipated that the proposed changes, if accepted by PHARMAC's Board, would take effect from 1 August 2005. If you wish to make comments for the PHARMAC Board to consider when making its decision on whether to accept this proposal, please forward them to Sean Dougherty at PHARMAC by **5:00 pm, 17 June 2005**.

Yours sincerely



Wayne McNee
Chief Executive



1 June 2005

Sean Dougherty
PHARMAC
P O Box 10 254
WELLINGTON

Dear Sean,

RE: PROPOSAL TO SUBSIDISE OXYCODONE CAPSULES AND CONTROLLED-
RELEASE TABLETS.

On behalf of the bpac^{nz} board and staff I am writing to support your proposal to subsidise oxycodone.

You maybe aware that bpac^{nz} is going to be running a campaign on Palliative Care in the next financial year. It is our understanding that Palliative Care specialists see the availability of oxycodone is a major development in the control of pain for patients with terminal illness.

Therefore bpac^{nz} offers its full support to PHARMAC in subsidising this medicine. Should you require any further information please don't hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Professor M W Tilyard
CEO
bpac^{nz}



SOUTH LINK HEALTH INC
PROMOTING THE PRACTICE OF THE HIGHEST QUALITY,
BEST VALUE HEALTH CARE



31 May 2005

Shaun Dougherty
Pharmac
PO Box 10-254
WELLINGTON

Dear Shaun

Re: Consultation on proposal to subsidy Oxycodone Capsules and Control Release Tablets

I am writing to offer the support of South Link Health, its Board and members to the proposal to subsidise Oxycodone.

The availability of this medicine for the relief of pain would be a major advance. This is particularly in the area of terminal care.

We look forward to this medicine being subsidised and its appropriate use within the community.

Yours sincerely

Murray W Tilyard
Executive Director



HealthPAC
79 Taranaki Street
P.O. Box 1043
Wellington

Phone (04) 381 5300
Fax (04) 381 5301

16 June 2005

Sean Dougherty
Therapeutic Group Manager
PHARMAC
PO Box 10 254
Wellington

Dear Sean

Re: DH2792 - Consultation on proposal to subsidise Oxycodone capsules and tablets

Thank you for providing HealthPAC with the opportunity to respond to this consultation.

HealthPAC's feedback is provided based on the consultation documented dated 27 May 2005 and the following points as discussed during our telephone conversation on 30 May 2005:

- Oxycodone capsules and controlled-release tablets will be listed in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule in the Nervous System Therapeutic group under Opioid Analgesics.

Based on the information above, HealthPAC advises that no technical or resource impacts are anticipated as a result of this change.

If you would like to discuss the content of this letter, please do not hesitate to contact me by email [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely



Teresa Omundsen
Business Analyst
Service Development
HealthPAC

13 June, 2005

Reply: Dr Jonathan Adler
Hospital Palliative Care Service
Wellington Cancer Centre
Wellington Public Hospital
Riddiford Street
Wellington

Dear Sean,

Re: Consultation for Subsidising Oxycodone Capsules and Controlled-Release Tablets

We write on behalf of the New Zealand palliative medicine community¹.

We fully endorse and warmly welcome PHARMAC's move to subsidise both immediate and modified release preparations of oral Oxycodone.

Oxycodone will be an extremely useful alternative opioid when morphine is contraindicated or not tolerated in palliative care patients. Having such ability to 'opioid switch' will help bring New Zealand up to a standard of care that is compatible with routine palliative pain management in North America, Europe and Australia.

We note that it will also be necessary to have both liquid and parenteral oxycodone preparations available if oxycodone is to be a truly effective alternative to morphine in palliative patients. This is especially so with those who are dying (and often unable to swallow tablets/capsules), with those who are vomiting/in bowel obstruction (so preventing oral administration), and in the paediatric population (who often prefer liquid medications to tablets).

We therefore ask that PHARAMC favourably consider future subsidisation of oxycodone hydrochloride liquid (5mg/5ml and 10mg/ml), and oxycodone hydrochloride for injection (10mg/ml) as soon as these preparations become available on the New Zealand market.

With very best wishes,

New Zealand Palliative Care Pharmaceutical Group

(Dr Jonathan Adler, Dr Ross Drake, Dr Carol McAllum, Jane Vella-Brincat)

1. Following consultation with: Australasian Chapter of Palliative Medicine, Australia and New Zealand Society of Palliative Medicine, New Zealand Hospital Palliative Care, Cancer Voices New Zealand, New Zealand Cancer Treatment Working Party, and Hospice New Zealand