

7 December 2012

## Proposal to fund capsaicin cream, atenolol oral liquid and bosentan and to amend the listing of erythromycin lactobionate IV.

PHARMAC has entered into a provisional agreement with AFT Pharmaceuticals relating to the listing of various products in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule.

We are now seeking feedback on this proposal. In summary, this proposal would result in:

- listing of capsaicin cream 0.025% w/w (Zostrix) under Special Authority criteria;
- listing of atenolol oral liquid 25 mg per 5 ml (Atenolol AFT) under a restriction;
- listing of bosentan 62.5 mg and 125 mg tablets (pms-Bosentan) under Special Authority; and
- a subsidy and price increase for erythromycin lactobionate

### Feedback sought

PHARMAC welcomes feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback, please submit it in writing by **Friday, 21 December 2012** to:

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

We are not able to treat any part of your feedback as confidential unless you specifically request that we do. If you would like us to withhold any commercially sensitive, confidential proprietary, or personal information included in your submission, please clearly state this in your submission and identify the relevant sections of your submission that you would like withheld.

Feedback we receive is subject to the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) and we will consider any request to have information withheld in accordance with our obligations under the OIA.

## Details of the proposal

### *In relation to capsaicin cream (Zostrix)*

- Capsaicin cream 0.025% w/w would be listed in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 February 2013 as follows (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Pharmaceutical	Band	Presentation	Pack size	Price and subsidy
capsaicin	Zostrix	Crn 0.025%	45 g OP	\$9.95

- The following Special Authority criteria would apply:

Initial application from any relevant practitioner. Approvals valid without further renewal, unless notified, where the patient has osteoarthritis that is not responsive to paracetamol and non-steroidal anti-inflammatories are contraindicated.

- A volume based rebate would apply to Zostrix.

### *In relation to atenolol oral liquid (Atenolol AFT)*

- Atenolol oral liquid would be listed in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 February 2013 as follows (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Pharmaceutical	Band	Presentation	Pack size	Price and subsidy
atenolol	Atenolol AFT	Oral liq 25 mg per 5 ml	300 ml	\$21.25

- The following restrictions would apply:

Oral liquid restricted to children under 12 years of age

- Prior to registration by Medsafe, Atenolol AFT would be supplied under section 29 of the Medicines Act 1981.

### *In relation to bosentan (pms-Bosentan)*

- pms-Bosentan tablets would be listed in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule as soon as practicable, following Medsafe approval and stock becoming available in New Zealand. The following prices and subsidies would apply (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Pharmaceutical	Brand	Presentation	Pack size	Price and Subsidy from 1 February 2013	Price and Subsidy from 1 January 2014
bosentan	pms-Bosentan	Tab 62.5 mg	60	\$2000.00	\$1500.00
bosentan	pms-Bosentan	Tab 125 mg	60	\$2000.00	\$1500.00

- Special Authority approval for a subsidy for pms-Bosentan would be required and obtained by application to the PAH Panel.

***In relation to erythromycin lactobionate (Erythrocin IV)***

- The price and subsidy of erythromycin lactobionate injection would be increased in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 February 2013 as follows (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Pharmaceutical	Brand	Presentation	Pack size	Current Price and Subsidy	Price and Subsidy from 1 February 2013
erythromycin lactobionate	Erythrocin IV	Inj 1 g	1	\$10.93	\$16.00

**Background**

This proposal contains new listings for capsaicin cream (a new strength) and atenolol oral liquid; bosentan and erythromycin lactobionate are already listed (with respect to these pharmaceuticals the proposal is only to change the price and subsidies).

An application for the funding of capsaicin cream, for the symptomatic relief of pain associated with osteoarthritis not responsive to paracetamol and when NSAIDs are contraindicated, was reviewed by the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (PTAC) at its May 2012 meeting. PTAC recommended that capsaicin cream be funded on the Pharmaceutical Schedule with a low priority. The full minutes of the meeting may be found on PHARMAC's website at:

<http://www.pharmac.govt.nz/2012/07/12/2012%2005%20PTAC%20web%20minutes.pdf>

Atenolol oral liquid is currently being funded for some individual patients through the Named Patient Pharmaceutical Assessment (NPPA) Policy. Listing it on the Pharmaceutical Schedule would result in more equitable use, easier access and reduced clinician administration.