

29 January 2013

Proposal to amend the terms of listing for Accu-Chek Performa blood glucose test strips

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal to increase the price and subsidy and apply Special Authority criteria to Accu-Chek Performa blood glucose from 1 March 2013.

In summary, this proposal would result in, from 1 March 2013:

- Accu-Chek Performa blood glucose test strips being funded for people who were using an Accu-Chek Combo insulin pump prior to 1 June 2012;
- Special Authority applications for funding, providing evidence of eligibility, being considered by PHARMAC.
- The price and subsidy of Accu-Chek Performa being increased from 1 March 2013 to \$28.75 per 50 test strips (ex-manufacturer; excl. GST).

Feedback sought

PHARMAC welcomes feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback, please submit it in writing by **Tuesday, 12 February 2013** to:

Natalie Davis
Therapeutic Group Manager
PHARMAC
PO Box 10 254
Wellington 6143

Email: natalie.davis@pharmac.govt.nz

Fax: 04 460 4995

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

The proposal is to increase the price and subsidy for Accu-Chek Performa blood glucose test strips in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 March 2013 as follows:

Pharmaceutical	Brand	Form	Pack size	Current Price and subsidy (ex-man; excl. GST)	Proposed Price and subsidy (ex-man; excl. GST)
Blood glucose diagnostic test strip	Accu-Chek Performa	Test strip	50 test OP	\$21.65	\$28.75

The following Special Authority criteria would apply from 1 March 2013:

Special Authority for Subsidy. Application by any relevant practitioner. Approval valid for 5 years for applications meeting the following criteria:

Both:

1. The patient is using an Accu-Chek Combo insulin pump; and
2. The applying clinician has:
 - 2.1 a record of prescribing the Accu-Chek Performa blood glucose test strips to the patient, as their primary test strip for blood glucose, prior to 1 June 2012; and
 - 2.2 evidence that the patient was using an Accu-Chek Combo insulin pump prior to 1 June 2012.

Applications to be sent to PHARMAC with copies of applicable records or evidence, as mentioned in 1 and 2 above, in addition to the Serial Number of the Accu-Chek Combo pump being used.

We propose that the evidence required by PHARMAC to establish eligibility would be in the form of historical prescribing or clinical records, receipt of purchase for the Combo pump or any other documents the applicant considers to be proof of pre 1 June 2012 usage. The Serial Number for the pump (not the remote device) would also be required.

Patients who have transitioned to one of the funded insulin pumps (Animas or Medtronic) would not be eligible for funded Accu-Chek Performa blood glucose test strips. Applications would only be considered for patients who are using an Accu-Chek Combo insulin pump on the date of application.

A provisional agreement with Roche Diagnostics offers subsidy and delisting protection for Accu-Chek Performa blood glucose strips until 30 June 2015.

Background

This proposal results from several changes to the funding of blood glucose meters and test strips following the decision by the PHARMAC Board to list CareSens blood glucose meters and test strips. CareSens meters and test strips will be the sole brand of blood glucose meters and test strips from 1 March 2013 with the exception of Optium FreeStyle and Accu-Chek Performa test strips which would be available subject to Special Authority.

We informed the market of our intention to continue funding Accu-Chek Performa blood glucose test strips for patients who were using the Accu-Chek Combo insulin pump before 1 June 2012, through a notification letter dated 8 August 2012.