

24 May 2013

Proposal to fund blood glucose and blood ketone testing products on a Practitioner's Supply Order (PSO)

PHARMAC is seeking feedback on a proposal to fund blood glucose and blood ketone testing products via a PSO from 1 July 2013.

In summary, this proposal would result in blood glucose and blood ketone testing products being available on a PSO with quantity restrictions.

Feedback sought

PHARMAC welcomes feedback on this proposal. To provide feedback, please submit it in writing by **Monday , 10 June 2013** to:

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Email: Adrienne.Martin@pharmac.govt.nz

Fax: 04 460 4995

All feedback received before the closing date will be considered by PHARMAC's Board (or its delegate) prior to making a decision on this proposal.

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. Anyone providing feedback, whether on their own account or on behalf of an organisation, and whether in a personal or professional capacity, should be aware that the content of their feedback and their identity may need to be disclosed in response to an OIA request.

We are not able to treat any part of your feedback as confidential unless you specifically request that we do, and then only to the extent permissible under the OIA and other relevant laws and requirements. 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 it withheld. PHARMAC will give due consideration to any such request.

Details of the proposal

The following blood glucose diagnostic test meters listed in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule would be available on a PSO from 1 July 2013 at a **maximum quantity of 1 meter per PSO**:

- CareSens N (Blood glucose diagnostic test meter)
- CareSens N POP (Blood glucose diagnostic test meter)
- CareSens II (Blood glucose diagnostic test meter)

The following blood glucose diagnostic test strips listed in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule would be available on a PSO from 1 July 2013 at a **maximum quantity of 50 test strips (1 x OP) per PSO**:

- CareSens N (Blood glucose diagnostic test strip)
- CareSens (Blood glucose diagnostic test strip)

For the avoidance of doubt the following blood glucose diagnostic test strips listed in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule would **not** be available on a PSO:

- Accu-Chek Performa (Blood glucose diagnostic test strip)
- Freestyle Optium (Blood glucose diagnostic test strip)

The following blood ketone diagnostic test meter listed in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule would be available on a PSO from 1 July 2013 at a **maximum quantity of 1 meter per PSO**:

- Freestyle Optium (Blood ketone diagnostic test meter)

The following blood ketone diagnostic test strips listed in Section B of the pharmaceutical Schedule would be available on a PSO from 1 July 2013 at a **maximum quantity of 10 test strips (1 x OP) per PSO**:

- Freestyle Optium Ketone (Ketone blood Beta-Ketone Electrodes)

Background

From 28 June 2013 GP clinics and practices will no longer be able to order blood glucose meters and test strips from Diabetes NZ. This service was available through a contract Diabetes NZ had with the Ministry of Health and this contract will be discontinued at the end of June.

The provision of blood glucose and blood ketone testing products via a PSO would allow these products to be available for use by practitioners for emergencies, training and demonstration, as well as for provision to certain patient groups where an individual prescription is not practicable.