

12 August 2009

Metoprolol Succinate (Betoloc CR) and Goserelin (Zoladex)

PHARMAC is pleased to announce the approval of an agreement with AstraZeneca regarding metoprolol succinate (Betoloc CR) and goserelin acetate (Zoladex). This was the subject of a consultation letter dated 24 July 2009. In summary, the effect of the decision is that:

- the previous proposal to reference price Betoloc CR to AFT-Metoprolol CR is superseded by this decision;

Betaloc CR

- Will be fully subsidised without restriction (the current endorsement restriction will be removed) until at least 31 January 2012;
- Will have price and subsidy reductions from 1 September 2009, 1 February 2010 and 1 July 2010;
- Will have subsidy and delisting protection until 31 January 2012;

AFT-Metoprolol CR

- The subsidy for AFT-Metoprolol CR will be reduced to the subsidy level of Betoloc CR, from 1 July 2010, through the application of reference pricing;

Zoladex

- The Special Authority will be removed from 1 September 2009;
- Will have price and subsidy reductions from 1 February 2010 and 1 February 2011; and,
- Will have subsidy and delisting protection until 30 June 2013.

Details of the proposal

Metoprolol succinate (long-acting tablets)

The Betoloc CR brand of metoprolol succinate long-acting tablet would be available fully funded without restriction (the current endorsement criteria would be removed) from 1 September 2009.

Betaloc CR would have protection from delisting and subsidy reduction until 31 January 2012.

All strengths of Betaloc CR long-acting tablets would be subject to three price and subsidy reductions, and the subsidy for AFT-Metoprolol CR would be reduced from 1 July 2010 to the relevant per-tablet subsidy for Betaloc CR, through the application of reference pricing.

Betaloc CR and AFT-Metoprolol CR would each be listed in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at the following prices and subsidies (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Strength (mg)	Brand	Pack Size	Subsidy			
			Current subsidy (and price)	1 September 2009	1 February 2010	1 July 2010
23.75	Betaloc CR	30	\$5.20 (\$6.20)	\$3.61	\$2.73	\$2.18
	AFT-Metoprolol CR	30	\$2.73	\$2.73	\$2.73	\$2.18
47.5	Betaloc CR	30	\$6.50 (\$7.80)	\$4.50	\$3.41	\$2.74
	AFT-Metoprolol CR	30	\$3.41	\$3.41	\$3.41	\$2.74
95	Betaloc CR	30	\$11.20 (\$13.20)	\$7.40	\$5.88	\$4.71
	AFT-Metoprolol CR	30	\$5.88	\$5.88	\$5.88	\$4.71
190	Betaloc CR	30	\$20.25 (\$21.00)	\$12.50	\$10.63	\$8.51
	AFT-Metoprolol CR	30	\$10.63	\$10.63	\$10.63	\$8.51

Betaloc CR (metoprolol succinate long-acting tablets) would be listed in Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 September 2009 at the following price, and reduce the prices for Betaloc CR (metoprolol succinate long-acting tablets) at the following prices as follows (as applicable, ex-manufacturer and excl. GST);

Strength (mg)	Brand	Pack Size	Price		
			1 September 2009	1 February 2010	1 July 2010
23.75	Betaloc CR	30	\$3.61	\$2.73	\$2.18
47.5	Betaloc CR	30	\$4.50	\$3.41	\$2.74
95	Betaloc CR	30	\$7.40	\$5.88	\$4.71
190	Betaloc CR	30	\$12.50	\$10.63	\$8.51

Wholesalers, distributors and pharmacists should be aware that the supplier of Betaloc CR, AstraZeneca Limited, has not agreed with PHARMAC that it will reduce the price of its product in the market on the 12th of the month prior to the date of reduction of the subsidy

(identified in the table above). However, it will work with other entities it currently works with in the supply chain to enable the re-pricing for stock holdings purchased at the higher prices.

Goserelin acetate (Zoladex)

The Special Authority that currently applies to Zoladex would be removed from 1 September 2009.

Zoladex would have protection from delisting and subsidy reduction until 30 June 2013.

Zoladex would be subject to two price reductions and would be listed in Section B and Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule at the following prices and subsidies (ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Price and subsidy (Exclusive of GST) (\$NZ)		
			Current	1 February 2010	1 February 2011
3.6 mg injection	Zoladex	1	\$221.60	\$200.00	\$166.20
10.8 mg injection	Zoladex	1	\$554.70	\$500.00	\$443.76

Wholesalers, distributors and pharmacists should be aware that the supplier of Zoladex, AstraZeneca Limited, has not agreed with PHARMAC that it will reduce the price of its product in the market on the 12th of the month prior to the date of reduction of the subsidy (identified in the table above). However, it will work with other entities it currently works with in the supply chain to enable the re-pricing for stock holdings purchased at the higher prices.

Feedback received

We appreciate all of the feedback that we received and acknowledge the time people took to respond. All consultation responses received were considered in making a decision on the proposed changes. All responses were supportive of the proposal.

More information

If you have any questions about this decision, you can call our toll free number (9 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday) on 0800 66 00 50.