

28 March 2013

## Amendment to the definition of Specialist recommendation in the General rules

PHARMAC wishes to announce that the guidance on how the words “As recommended by a Specialist” in Part I of Section A: General Rules will be amended from 1 April 2013 to include practitioners who have prescribed in accordance with DHB hospital approved protocols (details below).

Following notification of decisions regarding restrictions applying to the many anti-infectives to be included on the hospital medicines list ([http://www.pharmac.health.nz/ckeditor\\_assets/attachments/293/notification-of-section-h-listings-2013-03-19.pdf](http://www.pharmac.health.nz/ckeditor_assets/attachments/293/notification-of-section-h-listings-2013-03-19.pdf)) we became aware that the ability for Hospital based specialists to initiate treatment under a protocol in a hospital and continue in the community would not be allowed. This change to the rules will allow clinicians to initiate or continue therapy in the community if initiation of the therapy is or was according to a DHB hospital approved protocol.

Because more time is required to enable Software vendors and Sector Services to make technical changes to implement this alteration and to inform DHB clinicians of the requirements for annotation on prescriptions, until 1 July 2013 pharmacists should consider any prescription endorsed with a ‘recommended by Specialist’, if the Specialist is not a one of the named prescribers set out in the Schedule rules, to have been initiated as per a DHB hospital approved protocol.

### Details of the proposal

PHARMAC wishes to announce that the definition of a Specialist recommendation in Part I of Section A: General Rules will be amended from 1 April 2013 as follows (additions in **Bold**):

“Hospital Pharmacy-Specialist” means that the Community Pharmaceutical is not eligible for Subsidy unless it is supplied by a hospital or pharmacy contracted to the Funder to dispense as a hospital pharmacy to an Outpatient either:

- a) on a Prescription signed by a Specialist, or
- b) where the treatment with the Community Pharmaceutical has been recommended by a Specialist, on the Prescription of a practitioner which is either:
  - i) endorsed with the words “recommended by [name of specialist and year of authorisation]” and signed by the Practitioner, or
  - ii) **endorsed with the word ‘protocol’ which means “initiated in accordance with DHB hospital approved protocol”**,
  - iii) annotated by the dispensing pharmacist, following verbal confirmation from the Practitioner of the name of the Specialist and date of recommendation, with the words “recommended by [name of specialist and date of authorisation], confirmed by [practitioner]”. Where the Contractor has an electronic record of such an Endorsement or Annotation from a previous prescription for the same Community

Pharmaceutical written by a prescriber for the same patient, they may annotate the prescription accordingly.

“As recommended by a Specialist” to be interpreted as **either**:

- 1) a) follows a substantive consultation with an appropriate Specialist;  
b) the consultation to relate to the Patient for whom the Prescription is written;  
c) consultation to mean communication by referral, telephone, letter, facsimile or email;  
d) except in emergencies consultation to precede annotation of the Prescription; and  
e) both the specialist and the General Practitioner must keep a written record of the consultation; **or**
- 2) **treatment with the Community Pharmaceutical has been initiated in accordance with a DHB hospital approved protocol**

For the purposes of the definition it makes no difference whether or not the Specialist is employed by a hospital.

“Retail Pharmacy-Specialist” means that the Community Pharmaceutical is only eligible for Subsidy if it is either:

- a) supplied on a Prescription or Practitioner’s Supply Order signed by a Specialist, or,
- b) in the case of treatment recommended by a Specialist, supplied on a Prescription or Practitioner’s Supply Order and either:
  - i) endorsed with the words “recommended by [name of Specialist and year of authorisation]” and signed by the Practitioner, or
  - ii) **endorsed with the word ‘protocol’ which means “initiated in accordance with DHB hospital approved protocol”, or**
  - iii) Annotated by the dispensing pharmacist, following verbal confirmation from the Practitioner of the name of the Specialist and date of recommendation, with the words “recommended by [name of specialist and year of authorisation], confirmed by [practitioner]”. Where the Contractor has an electronic record of such an Endorsement or Annotation from a previous prescription for the same Community Pharmaceutical written by a prescriber for the same patient, they may annotate the prescription accordingly.

“As recommended by a Specialist” to be interpreted as **either**:

- 1)
  - a) follows a substantive consultation with an appropriate Specialist;
  - b) the consultation to relate to the Patient for whom the Prescription is written;
  - c) consultation to mean communication by referral, telephone, letter, facsimile or email;
  - d) except in emergencies consultation to precede annotation of the Prescription; and
  - e) both the Specialist and the General Practitioner must keep a written record of consultation; **or**
- 2) **treatment with the Community Pharmaceutical has been initiated in accordance with a DHB hospital approved protocol.**

### 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.