

9 April 2013

## Approval of proposal relating to amiloride, perindopril and trandolapril

PHARMAC is pleased to announce the approval of a proposal to fund new brands of the potassium-sparing diuretic amiloride hydrochloride (Apo-Amiloride) and the ACE inhibitor perindopril (Apo-Perindopril) through an agreement with Apotex NZ Limited; to alter the subsidy arrangement for the existing funded brand of perindopril (Coversyl); and to clarify the subsidy arrangement for trandolapril (Gopten). This proposal was the subject of a consultation letter dated 11 March 2013, which can be found on PHARMAC's website [www.pharmac.health.nz](http://www.pharmac.health.nz). In summary, the effect of the decision is that:

- Apo-Amiloride (amiloride hydrochloride 5 mg tablets) will be fully funded from 1 July 2013;
- Apo-Perindopril (perindopril 2 mg and 4 mg tablets) will be fully funded from 1 May 2013;
- the subsidies for Coversyl (perindopril 2 mg and 4 mg tablets) will be adjusted to match the Apo-Perindopril subsidies from 1 May 2013;
- the higher subsidy for Coversyl by endorsement for patients with congestive heart failure who were taking perindopril prior to 1 June 1998 will be removed from 1 May 2013. This means that any patient currently receiving the higher subsidy by endorsement will need to switch to the Apo-Perindopril brand to remain on a fully subsidised product; and
- the wording of the higher subsidy by endorsement for Gopten (trandolapril 1 mg and 2 mg capsules), which is also available for patients with congestive heart failure who were taking it prior to 1 June 1998, will be amended for clarity on 1 May 2013.

### Details of the decision

- Apo-Amiloride and Apo-Perindopril will be listed in Section B and in Part II of Section H of the Pharmaceutical Schedule as follows (prices and subsidies expressed ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	List date	Price and subsidy
Amiloride hydrochloride	Tab 5 mg	Apo-Amiloride	100	1 July 2013	\$17.50
Perindopril	Tab 2 mg	Apo-Perindopril	30	1 May 2013	\$3.75
Perindopril	Tab 4 mg	Apo-Perindopril	30	1 May 2013	\$4.80

- The subsidies for the Coversyl brand of perindopril tablets in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule will be increased from 1 May 2013 as follows (prices and subsidies expressed ex-manufacturer, excluding GST):

Chemical	Presentation	Brand	Pack size	Current subsidy (and price)	New subsidy (and price)
Perindopril	Tab 2 mg	Coversyl	30	\$3.00 (\$18.50)	\$3.75 (\$18.50)
Perindopril	Tab 4 mg	Coversyl	30	\$4.05 (\$25.00)	\$4.80 (\$25.00)

- The higher subsidy by endorsement that currently applies to the Coversyl brand of perindopril tablets will be removed from 1 May 2013.
- The higher subsidy by endorsement that currently applies to the Gopten brand of trandolapril capsules will be amended from 1 May 2013 as follows (deletions in ~~strike through~~, additions in **bold**):

**Higher subsidy by endorsement is available** ~~Trandolapril will be funded to the level of the ex-manufacturer price listed in the Schedule for patients who were taking these ACE inhibitors~~ **trandolapril** for the treatment of congestive heart failure prior to 1 June 1998. The prescription must be endorsed accordingly. We recommend that the words used to indicate eligibility are "certified condition" or an appropriate description of the patient such as "congestive heart failure", "CHF", "congestive cardiac failure" or "CCF". ~~Definition of Congestive Heart Failure At the request of some prescribers the PTAC Cardiovascular subcommittee has provided a definition of congestive heart failure for the purposes of the funding of the manufacturer's surcharge: "Clinicians should use their clinical judgement. Existing patients would be eligible for the funding of the surcharge if the patient shows signs and symptoms of congestive heart failure, and requires or has in the past required concomitant treatment with a diuretic. The definition could also be considered to include patients post myocardial infarction with an ejection fraction of less than 40%."~~ **For the purposes of this endorsement, congestive heart failure includes patients post myocardial infarction with an ejection fraction of less than 40%. Patients who started on trandolapril after 1 June 1998 are not eligible for full subsidy by endorsement.**

### Feedback received

We appreciate all of the feedback that we received and acknowledge the time people took to respond. All consultation responses received by 28 March 2013 were considered in their entirety in making a decision on the proposed changes. Responses were supportive of the proposal in relation to amiloride; no responses were received in relation to the perindopril and trandolapril component 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.