

14 June 2013

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

PHARMAC is pleased to announce the approval of a proposal to fund blood glucose and blood ketone testing products on a PSO from 1 July 2013.

This proposal was the subject of a consultation letter dated 24 May 2013 which can be found on PHARMAC's website at: <http://www.pharmac.health.nz/news/item/blood-glucose-and-blood-ketone-testing-products>

In summary, the effect of the decision is that:

- The following blood glucose diagnostic test meters will now also be available on a PSO at a maximum quantity of one 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 will now also be available on a PSO at a maximum quantity of 50 test strips (1 x OP) per PSO:
 - CareSens N (Blood glucose diagnostic test strips)
 - CareSens (Blood glucose diagnostic test strips)
- The following blood ketone diagnostic test meter will now also be available on a PSO at a maximum quantity of one meter per PSO:
 - FreeStyle Optium (Blood ketone diagnostic test meter)
- The following blood ketone diagnostic test strips will now also be available on a PSO at a maximum quantity of 10 test strips (1 x OP) per PSO:
 - Freestyle Optium Ketone (Ketone blood Beta-Ketone Electrodes)

Details of the Decision

- Access to blood glucose and blood ketone testing products in Section B of the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 July 2013 will be as follows (changes to the current criteria are shown in **bold**):

BLOOD KETONE DIAGNOSTIC TEST METER

- a) Meter funded for the purposes of blood ketone diagnostics only. Patient has had one or more episodes of ketoacidosis and is at risk of future episodes. Only one meter per patient will be subsidised every 5 years.
- b) **Up to 1 dev available on a PSO**

Feedback received

We appreciate all of the feedback that we received and acknowledge the time people took to respond. All consultation responses received by 10 June 2013 were considered in their entirety in making a decision on the proposed changes. Most responses were supportive of the proposal, and the following issues were raised in relation to specific aspects of the proposal:

Theme	Comment
Clarification required around the intent of a PSO and individual patient use and if a PSO can be repeated.	<p>A PSO can be repeated as often as needed. The intent of a PSO is that the products are not supplied to all patients seen by a practitioner. Rather the products ordered via a PSO are intended for emergency use, teaching and demonstration and for provision to a patient when an individual prescription is not practicable.</p> <p>These testing products are funded on the Pharmaceutical Schedule and therefore patients can obtain them from a community pharmacy via a prescription.</p>
The Pharmacy Guild expressed concern that the proposal could result in an increased number of dispensings through community pharmacy and would expect a change in the funding agreement to compensate for the proposed change.	<p>PHARMAC's decisions can have both a positive or negative impact on the sum of dispensings for community pharmacy.</p> <p>Reimbursement for services and whether or not it is appropriate to change the Community Pharmacy Services Agreement is a matter for contract partners, i.e. DHBs and pharmacy, to resolve. We will share the Pharmacy Guild's concerns with DHBs.</p>

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.