

7 March 2014

Updated market information: Request For Proposals – Supply of erythropoietin

PHARMAC released a request for proposals (RFP) on 28 February 2014 for the supply of erythropoietin in New Zealand. We have received requests from potential suppliers for more information regarding patient numbers, namely:

- use of funded erythropoietin alpha and beta by community based patients over the past few years; and
- those likely to be treated with erythropoietin if access to funding were widened to include myelodysplasia.

Further information is provided, in response to these requests, below. We note that the information is approximate and indicative only. PHARMAC makes no representation as to the accuracy of this information or as to the level of sales or likely sales of erythropoietin and, while PHARMAC has taken all reasonable care in preparing the information set out below, it accepts no liability for any errors or omissions in the information.

Current patient numbers

The information in the table below relates to the estimated patient numbers on erythropoietin in the community.

	Financial Year Ending June 2012	Financial Year Ending June 2013
Patients on long-term erythropoietin alpha*	14	89
Patients on long-term erythropoietin beta*	3,278	3,131

*Number of patients receiving the formulation regularly during the period.

Patient numbers if access widened to myelodysplasia

We note that this request is really for an estimate, which of itself necessitates making a number of assumptions, such that any estimate would by its very nature be uncertain both with respect to patient numbers and duration of treatment.

PHARMAC considers that disclosure of its estimates could prejudice or disadvantage commercial activities and/or prejudice or disadvantage any negotiations that may arise from bids received in response to this RFP, and as such we are refusing to release this information in accordance with sections 9(2)(i) and/or 9(2)(j) of the Official Information Act 1982.

However, we consider that potential suppliers should be able to model their own estimates using the advice PHARMAC has received from PTAC on this matter, along with their own knowledge of the market. The relevant PTAC minutes relating to the use of erythropoietin for the treatment of myelodysplasia can be found on our website:

- PTAC August 2012
<http://www.pharmac.health.nz/assets/ptac-minutes-2012-08.pdf>
- PTAC November 2012
<http://www.pharmac.health.nz/assets/ptac-minutes-2012-11.pdf>
- PTAC February 2013
<http://www.pharmac.health.nz/assets/ptac-minutes-2013-05-01.pdf>