

Hospital Circular

Distribution: Public Hospitals

Subject: Highly Specialised Drugs Program

Purpose

The purpose of this circular is to advise hospitals involved with the Highly Specialised Drugs Program of two recent amendments to drugs funded by the Commonwealth Government under the Highly Specialised Drugs Program, section 100 of the *National Health Act 1953*, including starting date and price for new drug form.

There has been recent advice from the Commonwealth on a number of matters relating to the Highly Specialised Drugs Program. These are listed as follows:

Clozapine - revised indication

Further to previous advice regarding the revision of clinical indication for Clozapine, the PBAC has further revised the indication as follows:

Treatment of schizophrenia in patients who are non-responsive to, or intolerant of, other neuroleptic drugs.

The revised indication is effective as of now.

Zidovudine - new form

Zidovudine syrup has passed assay and is now available under the Highly Specialised Drugs Program. The agreed price and strength for this new form is as follows:

Zidovudine syrup, 200ml bottle \$49.45 per bottle

Effective from 1 April 1995.

Attached are the relevant pages to revise Appendices 2, 3 and 8 for the Commonwealth/State Highly Specialised Drugs Program Guidelines which are included in *Conditions for Commonwealth/State Programs (October 1993; Publication 93/0068)* and as a revised stand alone document dated (December 1994; Publication no: 94/0154). Please update your documents as necessary.



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DIRECTOR

ACUTE HEALTH SERVICES

Date

Publication No.

Contact

29/3/95

9/1995

Regional Office

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Appendix 2: Drugs covered by the Program

| Drug | Date Subsidised from | PBAC Clinical Indications and other Restrictions | Hospitals' Funding Responsibilities | Commonwealth's Funding Responsibilities |
|------------------|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Clozapine | 1 Sep 1993 Note: indication modified 1 February 1995. | Hospital must be participating in the National Clozapine Patient Monitoring System (based at the Mental Health Research Institute of Victoria) For the treatment of Schizophrenia in patients who are non-responsive to, or intolerant of, other neuroleptic drugs. | Overnight stay patient costs | Community patient costs |
| Cyclosporin | 1 Jan 1991 #(Commonwealth funding for all community patients with no qualifying period effective from 1 July 1994) | Patients with an organ or tissue transplant. | #Overnight stay patient costs | Community patient costs |
| Desferrioxamine | 1 April 1993 1 August 1994 | Treatment of iron overload associated with thalassaemia major Primary idiopathic haemochromatosis in patients unable to tolerate venesections. | Overnight stay patient costs | Community patient costs |
| Didanosine (DDI) | 1 July 1992 1 October 1994 | Patients with advanced HIV infection who are intolerant of zidovudine therapy or who have demonstrated significant clinical or immuno-logical deterioration during zidovudine treatment. Treatment of adult patients with advanced HIV infection who have received prior zidovudine therapy for at least 16 weeks. | Overnight stay patient Costs | Community patient costs |

Appendix 3: Agreed Prices

| Drug & dose form information | Pack size | Agreed Price | |
|--|-----------|--------------|------------|
| | | 1994/95 | |
| | | Per Pack | Per Item |
| Ganciclovir | | | |
| Powder, 500mg | 1 | \$57.71 | \$57.7100 |
| Interferon Alpha 2A | | | |
| Vials, 3,000,000iu | 5 | \$145.80 | \$29.1600 |
| Vials, 4,500,000iu | 5 | \$218.70 | \$43.7400 |
| Vials, 9,000,000iu | 5 | \$437.40 | \$87.4800 |
| Vials, 18,000,000iu | 5 | \$874.80 | \$174.9600 |
| Interferon Alpha 2B | | | |
| Vials, 3,000,000iu | 5 | \$145.80 | \$29.1600 |
| Vials, 5,000,000iu | 5 | \$243.00 | \$48.6000 |
| Vials, 9,000,000iu | 5 | \$437.40 | \$87.4800 |
| Vials, 10,000,000iu | 5 | \$486.00 | \$97.2000 |
| Interferon Gamma 1B | | | |
| Soln for subcut inj. 3,000,000iu 100 micrograms/0.5mL | 6 | \$991.00 | \$165.1667 |
| Lenograstim | | | |
| Vial, 263mcg/1 ml | 1 | \$128.36 | \$128.3600 |
| Rifabutin | | | |
| Capsule, 150mg | 30 | \$147.00 | \$4.9000 |
| Sodium Foscarnet | | | |
| Infusion, 24mg/250ml | 6 | \$395.00 | \$65.8333 |
| Infusion, 24mg/500ml | 6 | \$660.00 | \$110.0000 |
| Zalcitabine (DDC) | | | |
| Tablet 375 micrograms | 100 | \$193.75 | \$1.9375 |
| Tablet 750 microgram | 100 | \$242.18 | \$2.4218 |
| Zidovudine (AZT) | | | |
| Capsules, 100mg | 100 | \$247.24 | \$2.4724 |
| Capsules, 250mg | 40 | \$247.24 | \$6.1810 |
| Syrup, 200ml | 1 | \$49.45 | \$49.4500 |

HIGHLY SPECIALISED DRUGS PROGRAM -

Claim Form
For the Period from to

Zidovudine (AZT)

| Patient Information | Number of Patients | Estimated Average Monthly Copayment | Estimated Patient Copayment Revenue |
|---------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Community Patients | | \$3.12 | |

| Dispensing Information | | | |
|---|---------------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Dosage Form, Strength | Number of Items Dispensed | Cost per Item | Expenditure |
| Capsules, 100mg | | \$2.4724 | |
| Capsules, 250mg | | \$6.1810 | |
| Syrup, 200ml | | \$49.4500 | |
| Gross Expenditure | | | |
| Patient Co-payment Revenue | | | |
| Expenditure less Co-payments (net) | | | |

I certify that the Zidovudine claimed was dispensed to patients who met the Highly Specialised Drugs Program's criteria including PBAC clinical indications and that the amount is correct.

AUTHORISING SIGNATURE:

DATE:

NAME OF SIGNATORY:

CONTACT PHONE NO:

POSITION:

HOSPITAL:

CAMPUS: