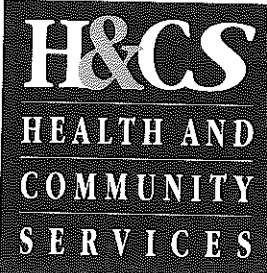


Hospital Circular



Distribution: Public Hospitals

Subject: Highly Specialised Drugs Program - Clarithromycin

Purpose

The purpose of this circular is to advise hospitals involved with the Highly Specialised Drugs Program of a new drug to be subsidised under the Program, including start date and agreed price for the new drug.

There has been recent advice from the Commonwealth that a subsidy will be available for Clarithromycin. Details of the drug which includes price, start date and conditions of funding are detailed below.

Clarithromycin

Tablets, 250mg	100 items per pack	\$199.80
Tablets, 500mg	100 items per pack	\$389.60

Clinical Indications

For use in the treatment of Mycobacterium Avium Complex infections in HIV positive patients.

Effective Date: 1 May 1996

Attached are the relevant pages to revise Appendices 2, 3 and 8 of 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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Walsh', is positioned above the name of the Director.

DR MICHAEL WALSH
DIRECTOR, ACUTE HEALTH SERVICES

Appendix 2: Drugs Covered by the Program

Note: Drugs funded under the Highly Specialised Drugs Program provide a subsidy for community patients only. Inpatients remain the responsibility of the treating hospital.

Drug	Date Subsidised	PBAC Clinical indications and other restrictions
Apomorphine Hydrochloride	1 Mar 1996	Parkinson's disease in patients severely disabled by motor fluctuations which do not respond to other therapy.
Clarithromycin	1 May 1996	Treatment of Mycobacterium avium complex infections in HIV positive patients.
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 agents.
Cyclosporin (Sandimmun)	1 Jan 1991	Patients with an organ or tissue transplant.
Desferrioxamine	Revised indication effective from 1 July 1995.	Disorders of erythropoiesis associated with treatment related chronic iron overload.
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 immunological deterioration during zidovudine treatment. Treatment of adult patients with advanced HIV infection who have received prior zidovudine therapy for at least 16 weeks.

Appendix 3: Agreed Prices

Drug & dose form information	Pack size	Agreed Price	
		1995/96	
		Per Pack	Per Item
Apomorphine			
Injection, 10mg in 1 ml amp	5	\$28.00	\$5.6000
Clarithromycin			
Tablet, 250mg	100	\$199.80	\$1.9980
Tablet, 500mg	100	\$389.60	\$3.8960
Clozapine			
Tablet, 25mg	100	\$72.00	\$0.7200
Tablet, 100mg	100	\$270.00	\$2.7000
Cyclosporin (Sandimmun)			
Oral Solution 50ml	1	\$368.75	\$368.7500
Capsules, 25mg	50	\$87.60	\$1.7520
Capsules, 50mg	50	\$175.15	\$3.5030
Capsules, 100mg	50	\$350.30	\$7.0060
Ampoules, 50mg/ml	10	\$54.10	\$5.4100
Ampoules, 250mg/5ml	10	\$257.95	\$25.7950
Desferrioxamine			
Powder, 500mg	10	\$108.27	\$10.8270
Didanosine (DDI)			
Powder, 2g (paediatric soln)	1	\$47.97	\$47.9700
Tablet, 25mg	60	\$35.98	\$0.5997
Tablets, 100mg	60	\$143.92	\$2.3987
Dornase Alpha (Pulmozyme)			
Sol for inhalation, 2.5mg/2.5ml	30	\$1,125.00	\$37.5000
Erythropoietin			
Vials, 2,000u	6	\$272.00	\$45.3333
Vials, 4,000u	6	\$467.00	\$77.8333
Vials, 10,000u	6	\$1,067.00	\$177.8333
Filgrastim			
Vial 300mcg/ml 1ml	10	\$1,504.00	\$150.4000
Vial 480mcg/ml 1.6ml	10	\$2,407.00	\$240.7000
Ganciclovir			
Powder, 500mg	1	\$57.71	\$57.7100

HIGHLY SPECIALISED DRUGS PROGRAM

Claim Form
For the Period from to

Clarithromycin

Patient Information	Number of Patients*
Community Patients	

Dispensing Information			
Dosage Form, Strength	Number of Items Dispensed	Cost per Item	Expenditure
Tablet, 250mg		\$1.9980	
Tablet, 500mg		\$3.8960	
	Total Expenditure		

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

AUTHORISING SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

NAME OF SIGNATORY: _____

CONTACT PHONE NO: _____

POSITION: _____

HOSPITAL: _____ CAMPUS: _____

*Number of patients represents total number of individual patients who received supply of highly specialised drugs in quarter, NOT number of occasions of dispensing.