22 May 2020

Megs

Via Email: fyi-request-12688-913afaa1@requests.fyi.org.nz

Dear Megs

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION: DISCONTINUATION OF PHENELZINE SULPHATE

Thank you for your email of 23 April 2020 requesting information about the discontinuation of phenelzine sulphate. Specifically, you have asked for:

…all information and documentation, including email or other correspondence documents with both internal and external parties, for the following:

- *What other alternative suppliers have been contacted or considered, what was the outcome?*
- *Is the discontinuation of phenelzine related to the current cost of alternatives?*
- *Has phenelzine been permanently discontinued in NZ? Or will it be available when the supply has stabilised?*
- *Any estimations around the suicide risk (and management) of these 100 New Zealanders (who are currently using phenelzine sulphate), the potential cost to the health and welfare system given the extremely high likelihood of relapse.*
- *All information related to the suggestion of using tranylcypromine sulphate (Parnate) as "appropriate alternative MAOI for patients", including …. a list detailing the qualifications and professional experience regarding MAOI and treatment resistant depression of those on the Mental Health Subcommittee of the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee. Please also include any studies cited or external professionals who were consulted.*

PHARMAC is processing your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA).

We are currently undertaking consultations in order to decide on your information request. To facilitate this, I am extending the time limit for responding to your correspondence in accordance with section 15A(1)(b) of the OIA.

We will respond to your request at the earliest opportunity, but no later than 19 June 2020.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Read
Manager, Policy and Government Services

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