

5 July 2016

Dear Shane

## REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

Thank you for your request dated 9 June 2016 under the Official Information Act 1982 (OIA) for information relating to any Named Patient Pharmaceutical Assessment (NPPA) applications for intrathecal baclofen for the treatment of severe spasticity related to MS or other conditions.

You wanted to know how many NPPA applications were made, how many were approved and what costs were involved with these approved requests on an annual basis and averaged out per patient.

PHARMAC's NPPA Panel has received one application for intrathecal baclofen. This application was for a patient with unusual clinical circumstances. The cost information for this treatment cannot be provided in response to your request as it may contribute to identifying the patient by disclosing specific details around their dosage of baclofen. We can however, give you the cost that was approved at \$230.22 per 5 ml.

We have withheld the information noted just above as we consider this is necessary to protect the privacy of natural persons (section 9(2)(a)).

As required under the OIA, we also considered whether, in the circumstances, the withholding of this information was outweighed by other considerations which render it desirable, in the public interest, to make this information available. In this case we did not consider that the public interest outweighed the reasons for withholding the information. Please note you have the right, by way of complaint under section 28(3) of the OIA to an Ombudsman, to seek an investigation and review of our decision.

We trust that the provision of this material is helpful. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact us again.

Yours sincerely



Peter Alsop  
Director, Engagement and Implementation