

19 December 2016

Dear Colleague

Trifluoperazine hydrochloride 1 mg, 2 mg and 5 mg tablets

We are writing to update you about the availability of the antipsychotic medication trifluoperazine hydrochloride 1 mg, 2 mg and 5 mg tablets, known by the brand name Stelazine.

We would appreciate it if you could share this message with your members.

The supplier of Stelazine, Boucher and Muir, has advised that there is a supply shortage in both New Zealand and Australia as the manufacturer has ceased production due to low volumes. The registered version of Stelazine is no longer available and will be delisted from the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 July 2017.

Boucher and Muir has sourced limited stock of an alternative brand of the 1 mg and 5 mg (but not 2 mg) tablets, Apo-Trifluoperazine, which will be listed fully funded on the Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 January 2017. We expect this stock will be available within the month of January. Apo-Trifluoperazine is not registered in New Zealand and will be supplied under Section 29 of the Medicines Act (S29)¹. The stock is expected to be exhausted in late 2017 and will be delisted on 1 December 2017.

This means that trifluoperazine hydrochloride tablets will no longer be funded from 1 December 2017.

To help with this discontinuation transition, the funding rules for trifluoperazine hydrochloride will be amended from 1 January 2017 so that it will only be funded for patients who were prescribed it prior to 1 January 2017.

What this means for you:

- new patients should be started on one of the other currently funded antipsychotic medications
- prescribers should start switching existing patients to alternative treatments as soon as possible

If you have any other questions about this, please feel free to contact me.

Yours sincerely



John Wyeth
Medical Director

¹ What should you tell patients supplied trifluoperazine hydrochloride under [Section 29](#) ?

- inform the patient the medicine they are prescribed is unapproved; and
- their name and prescribed medicine will be recorded by the supplier and may also be sent to Medsafe