



**Your Community Pharmacist:** the health professional you see most often

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Christine Chapman  
Therapeutic Group Manager  
PHARMAC

Sent via e-mail to: [christine.chapman@pharmac.govt.nz](mailto:christine.chapman@pharmac.govt.nz)

Dear Christine

**RE: PHARMAC PROPOSAL TO FULLY FUND SYMBICORT TURBUHALER AND VANNAIR**

Thank you for the opportunity to provide feedback on the above proposal.

The Pharmacy Guild of New Zealand (Inc.) (the Guild) is a national membership organisation representing community pharmacy owners. We provide leadership on all issues affecting the sector and advocate for the business interests of community pharmacy.

The Guild supports PHARMAC's intention to fully subsidise budesonide with eformoterol powder for inhalation (Symbicort Turbuhaler) and budesonide with eformoterol aerosol inhaler (Vannair). This change will result in increased access for patients who will benefit from the use of these combination products. Fully funding both Symbicort Turbuhaler and Vannair will also provide patients with the option to use different dose forms best suited to their personal needs.

The Guild supports the decision to fully fund these products during February 2012 in order to minimise disruption to patients. The Guild also supports the proposal for both products to have subsidy and delisting protection until 30 June 2015. This decision will provide patients with product continuity for the following three years which will reduce patient confusion by avoiding any brand changes during that time period. Implementation of the proposal will decrease the need for pharmacists to take note of every patient who would fit the endorsement criteria.

The Guild is concerned however that the surcharge for Oxis Turbuhaler and Floradil will cause these products to eventually be taken off the market.

This could occur due to fewer patients using Oxis Turbuhaler and Floradil as a result of the additional costs incurred by patients in obtaining these products. If these products were taken off the market, this would inevitably reduce the asthma treatment options for patients who may not require the Symbicort Turbuhaler or Vannair combination therapy.

Thank you for taking the time to read our feedback. If you have any questions about our feedback, please contact our Guild Policy Advisor, Jasmine Freemantle, at [jasmine.freemantle@pgnz.org.nz](mailto:jasmine.freemantle@pgnz.org.nz) or 04 802 8205.

Yours sincerely,



**Annabel Young**  
Chief Executive