#### EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

##### **NATIONAL HEALTH ACT 1953**

#### *NATIONAL HEALTH (LISTING OF PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS) AMENDMENT INSTRUMENT 2014 (No. 8)*

#### PB 52 of 2014

###### Purpose

###### The purpose of this legislative instrument, made under sections 84AF, 84AK, 85, 85A, 88 and 101 of the *National Health Act 1953* (the Act), is to amend the *National Health (Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Instrument 2012* (PB 71 of 2012) to make changes to the pharmaceutical benefits listed on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) and related matters.

###### PB 71 of 2012 determines the pharmaceutical benefits that are on the PBS through declarations of drugs and medicinal preparations, and determinations of forms, manners of administration and brands. It also provides for related matters (responsible persons, prescribing circumstances, maximum quantities, numbers of repeats, determined quantity and pack quantity, section 100 only status and prescriber bag only status).

###### Authority

This Instrument exercises various powers in Part VII of the Act, as set out below:

*Pharmaceutical benefits listed on the PBS*

Subsection 85(2) provides that the Minister may declare drugs and medicinal preparations to which Part VII applies. A drug or medicinal preparation for which there is a declaration in force under subsection 85(2) is a ‘listed drug’ (subsection 84(1)). Subsections 85(3) and 85(5) respectively provide that the Minister may determine the form or forms of a listed drug and the manner of administration of a form of a listed drug. A listed drug in a determined form with a determined manner of administration for that form is a pharmaceutical item (section 84AB). The Minister may also determine a brand of a pharmaceutical item (subsection 85(6)). The Minister may also determine the responsible person for a brand of a pharmaceutical item (subsection 84AF(1)). Under the provisions of section 84AK the Minister may determine the determined quantity and pack quantity for a brand of a pharmaceutical item.

*Prescribing pharmaceutical benefits*

Subsection 88(1) provides that a medical practitioner is authorised to prescribe a pharmaceutical benefit. Section 88 provides that the Minister may determine the pharmaceutical benefits that may be prescribed by different classes of prescribers, including participating dental practitioners (subsection 88(1A)), authorised optometrists (subsection 88(1C)), authorised midwives (subsection 88(1D)) and authorised nurse practitioners (subsection 88(1E)).

Subsection 85(7) provides that the Minister may determine the circumstances in which a prescription may be written for the supply of a pharmaceutical benefit.

Paragraph 85A(2)(a) allows the Minister to determine the maximum quantity or number of units of the pharmaceutical item in a pharmaceutical benefit (or of the pharmaceutical benefit where there is no pharmaceutical item) that may, in one prescription, be directed to be supplied on one occasion. Paragraph 85A(2)(b) also allows the Minister to determine the maximum number of occasions on which the supply of the pharmaceutical benefit may, in one prescription, be directed to be repeated. The maximum quantities and repeats may be determined for all purposes or for particular purposes.

*Supplying pharmaceutical benefits*

Subsection 85(2A) provides that the Minister must declare that a particular listed drug can only be provided under a special arrangement under section 100 if the PBAC has recommended under subsection 101(4AAD) that the drug be made available only under special arrangements under section 100.

Paragraph 85(8)(a) provides that the Minister may determine that a particular pharmaceutical benefit may only be supplied under special arrangements under section 100.

Paragraph 85(8)(b) provides that the Minister may determine that a particular pharmaceutical benefit may only be supplied under special arrangements under section 100 for one or more of the circumstances determined for that pharmaceutical benefit under subsection 85(7).

Subsection 85(2AA) provides that the Minister must declare that a particular listed drug can only be provided under one or more of the prescriber bag provisions if the PBAC has recommended under subsection 101(4AACA) that the drug be made available only under one or more of the prescriber bag provisions.

Paragraph 85(7A) provides that the Minister may determine that a particular pharmaceutical benefit may only be supplied under one or more of the prescriber bag provisions.

*Variation and revocation*

Unless there is an express power to revoke or vary PB 71 of 2012 cited in this Instrument and explanatory statement, subsection 33(3) of the *Acts Interpretation Act 1901* is relied upon to revoke or vary PB 71 of 2012.

Subsection 101(4AAA) allows the Minister to, by legislative instrument, revoke or vary a subsection 85(2) declaration in relation to a drug or medicinal preparation. Advice from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) is required if the effect of the legislative instrument would be that a drug or medicinal preparation would cease to be a listed drug (subsection 101(4AAB)).

**Changes to PB 71 of 2012 made by this instrument**

Schedule 1 to this instrument provides for additions, deletions and changes to drugs, forms, brands, responsible person codes, maximum quantities, the circumstances for prescribing various pharmaceutical benefits (including authority requirements), determined quantities, pack quantities, section 100 only status and prescriber bag only status. These changes are summarised, by subject matter, in the Attachment.

###### Consultation

The involvement of interested parties through the membership of PBAC constitutes a formal and ongoing process of consultation. PBAC is an independent expert body established by section 100A of the Act which makes recommendations to the Minister about which drugs and medicinal preparations should be available as pharmaceutical benefits.  PBAC members are appointed following nomination by prescribed organisations and associations from consumers, health economists, practising community pharmacists, general practitioners, clinical pharmacologists and specialists, with at least one member selected from each of those interests or professions.  Remaining members are persons whom the Minister is satisfied have qualifications and experience in a field relevant to the functions of PBAC, and that would enable them to contribute meaningfully to the deliberations of PBAC.  When recommending the listing of a medicine on the PBS, PBAC takes into account the medical conditions for which the medicine has been approved for use in Australia, its clinical effectiveness, safety and cost-effectiveness compared with other treatments.

Pharmaceutical companies are consulted throughout the process of the listing of their medicines on the PBS and in relation to changes to those listings. This includes the company submission to the PBAC and involvement throughout the PBAC process, negotiations or consultation on price, guarantee of supply and agreement to final listing details.

###### General

A provision by provision description of this Instrument is contained in the Attachment.

This Instrument commences on 1 August 2014.

This Instrument is a legislative instrument for the purposes of the *Legislative Instruments Act 2003.*

###### ATTACHMENT

###### PROVISION BY PROVISION DESCRIPTION OF THE *NATIONAL HEALTH (LISTING OF PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS) AMENDMENT INSTRUMENT 2014 (No. 8)*

**Section 1 Name of Instrument**

This section provides that the Instrument is the *National Health (Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Amendment Instrument 2014 (No. 8)* and may also be cited as PB 52 of 2014.

**Section 2 Commencement**

This section provides that this Instrument commences on 1 August 2014.

**Section 3 Amendment of the *National Health (Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Instrument 2012* (PB 71 of 2012)**

This section provides that Schedule 1 amends the *National Health (Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Instrument 2012* (PB 71 of 2012).

**Schedule 1 Amendments**

The amendments in Schedule 1 involve additions, deletions and changes to forms, brands, responsible person codes, maximum quantities, the circumstances for prescribing various pharmaceutical benefits (including authority requirements), determined quantities, pack quantities and section 100 only status. These changes are summarised below.

###### SUMMARY OF CHANGES

**Listed Drugs Added**

|  |
| --- |
| Aclidinium |
| Betaine |

**Forms Added**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Epoprostenol | Powder for I.V. infusion 500 micrograms (as sodium) (Veletri) Powder for I.V. infusion 1.5 mg (as sodium) (Veletri) |
| Macrogol 3350 | Oral liquid 13.125 g in 25 mL with electrolytes, 500 mL |
| Omalizumab | Injection 75 mg in 0.5 mL single dose pre-filled syringe Injection 150 mg in 1 mL single dose pre-filled syringe |
| Panitumumab | Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 400 mg in 20 mL |
| Progesterone | Vaginal tablet 100 mg |
| Saxagliptin | Tablet 2.5 mg (as hydrochloride) |

**Brands Added**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Calcium | Tablet, chewable, 500 mg (as carbonate) (Cal-500) |
| Capecitabine | Tablet 150 mg (Capecitabine Actavis; Capecitabine Alphapharm; Capecitabine-DRLA; Capecitabine Sandoz) Tablet 500 mg (Capecitabine Actavis; Capecitabine Alphapharm; Capecitabine Apotex; Capecitabine-DRLA; Capecitabine GH; Capecitabine Sandoz) |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Captopril | Tablet 12.5 mg (APO-Captopril)  Tablet 25 mg (APO-Captopril)  Tablet 50 mg (APO-Captopril) |
| Cyproterone | Tablet containing cyproterone acetate 50 mg (Cyrotone) |
| Enalapril | Tablet containing enalapril maleate 5 mg (Malean) Tablet containing enalapril maleate 10 mg (Malean) Tablet containing enalapril maleate 20 mg (Malean) |
| Esomeprazole | Tablet (enteric coated) 20 mg (as magnesium trihydrate) (Esomeprazole RBX) Tablet (enteric coated) 40 mg (as magnesium trihydrate) (Esomeprazole RBX) |
| Irbesartan | Tablet 75 mg (Irprestan 75)  Tablet 150 mg (Irprestan 150)  Tablet 300 mg (Irprestan 300) |
| Irbesartan with Hydrochlorothiazide | Tablet 150 mg-12.5 mg (Irbesartan HCT Actavis 150/12.5)  Tablet 300 mg-25 mg (Irbesartan HCT Actavis 300/25) |
| Levetiracetam | Tablet 250 mg (Levi 250) Tablet 500 mg (Levi 500) Tablet 1 g (Levi 1000) |
| Metoprolol succinate | Tablet 23.75 mg (controlled release) (Metrol-XL 23.75; Minax XL) Tablet 47.5 mg (controlled release) (Metrol-XL 47.5; Minax XL) Tablet 95 mg (controlled release) (Metrol-XL 95; Minax XL) Tablet 190 mg (controlled release) (Metrol-XL 190; Minax XL) |
| Quetiapine | Tablet 25 mg (as fumarate) (Quetia 25) Tablet 100 mg (as fumarate) (Quetia 100) Tablet 200 mg (as fumarate) (Quetia 200) Tablet 300 mg (as fumarate) (Quetia 300) |
| Sildenafil | Tablet 20 mg (as citrate) (APO-Sildenafil PHT; Sildenafil Sandoz PHT 20) |
| Tacrolimus | Capsule 0.5 mg (Pharmacor Tacrolimus 0.5) Capsule 1 mg (Pharmacor Tacrolimus 1) Capsule 5 mg (Pharmacor Tacrolimus 5) |
| Tirofiban | Solution concentrate for I.V. infusion 12.5 mg (as hydrochloride) in 50 mL (Tirofiban AC) |

**Brands Deleted**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Alprazolam | Tablet 250 micrograms (Alprazolam Sandoz) Tablet 500 micrograms (Alprazolam Sandoz) Tablet 1 mg (Alprazolam Sandoz) Tablet 2 mg (Alprazolam Sandoz) |
| Amiodarone | Tablet containing amiodarone hydrochloride 100 mg (Amiodarone Sandoz) |
| Carboplatin | Solution for I.V. injection 450 mg in 45 mL (Carbaccord) |
| Epirubicin | Solution for injection containing epirubicin hydrochloride 10 mg in 5 mL (Epiccord)  Solution for injection containing epirubicin hydrochloride 20 mg in 10 mL (Epiccord)  Solution for injection containing epirubicin hydrochloride 50 mg in 25 mL (Epiccord)  Solution for injection containing epirubicin hydrochloride 200 mg in 100 mL (Epiccord) |
| Gemcitabine | Powder for I.V. infusion 200 mg (as hydrochloride) (Gemcitabine Actavis; Gemplan)  Powder for I.V. infusion 1 g (as hydrochloride) (Gemplan) |
| Metronidazole | I.V. infusion 500 mg in 100 mL (Baxter Healthcare Pty Ltd) |
| Norethisterone | Tablet 350 micrograms, 28 (Locilan 28 Day) |
| Oxaliplatin | Powder for I.V. infusion 50 mg (Xalox)  Powder for I.V. infusion 100 mg (Xalox) |
| Vancomycin | Powder for injection 500 mg (500,000 I.U.) (as hydrochloride) (Vycin IV) |

**Alteration of Pack Size**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Listed Drug** | **Pack Size** |  |  |
| Ticarcillin with Clavulanic Acid | *From:* 10  *To:* 1 |  |  |

**Alteration of Responsible Person**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Listed Drug** | **Form** | **Brand Name** | **Responsible Person** |
| Fondaparinux | Injection containing fondaparinux sodium  2.5 mg in 0.5 mL single dose pre-filled syringe | Arixtra | *From:* GlaxoSmithKline Australia Pty Ltd (GK)  *To:* Aspen Pharmacare Australia Pty Limited (AS) |

**Addition of Responsible Person Code**

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| --- |
| Emerge Health Pty Ltd [EU] |

**Alteration of Circumstances**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Listed Drug** | **Alteration** |
| Atomoxetine | Streamlined authority restrictions now apply to amended circumstances |
| Bevacizumab | Availability extended for the initial and continuing treatment of ovarian, fallopian tube or peritoneal cancer |
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|  |  |

**Statement of Compatibility with Human Rights**

*Prepared in accordance with Part 3 of the Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*

***National Health (Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Amendment Instrument 2014  
(No. 8)***

***(PB 52 of 2014)***

This Legislative Instrument is compatible with the human rights and freedoms recognised or declared in the international instruments listed in section 3 of the *Human Rights (Parliamentary Scrutiny) Act 2011*.

**Overview of the Legislative Instrument**

The *National Health (Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Amendment Instrument 2014   
(No. 8)*amends the*National Health (Listing of Pharmaceutical Benefits) Instrument 2012*which determines the pharmaceutical benefits that are on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) through declarations of drugs and medicinal preparations, and determinations of forms, manners of administration and brands. It also provides for related matters (responsible persons, prescribing circumstances, maximum quantities, numbers of repeats, determined quantities, pack quantities, section 100 only status and prescriber bag only status).

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**Human rights implications**

This legislative instrument engages Articles 2 and 12 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) by assisting with the progressive realisation by all appropriate means of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

The PBS is a benefit scheme which assists with advancement of this human right by providing for subsidised access by patients to medicines. The recommendatory role of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee (PBAC) ensures that decisions about subsidised access to medicines on the PBS are evidence-based.

**Conclusion**

This Legislative Instrument is compatible with human rights because it advances the protection of human rights.

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