

Cardiovascular medicines

Recently a decision was made to change three funded brands of cardiovascular medicines. The first of these changes will start from 1 April 2015 when the new brand of carvedilol will be listed, followed by ezetimibe and ezetimibe with simvastatin from 1 June 2015.

What brands are changing?

Medicine	Funded brand before the change	Funded brand after the change
carvedilol tablets	Dilatrend	Dicarz
ezetimibe tablets	Ezetrol	Ezemibe
ezetimibe with simvastatin tablets	Vytorin	Zimybe

Medsafe has approved all three new cardiovascular brands after carefully considering their safety and effectiveness.

Access to Zimybe and Ezemibe will be via the same Special Authority number in the community and with the same restriction in hospitals.

Why are these changes happening?

These brand changes are expected to save approximately \$11 million over the sole supply periods (to 30 June 2017). This saving can then be used to fund other medicines.

When will the changes happen?

Dilatrend to Dicarz tablets

From 1 August 2015 - patients may need to pay a part payment for a prescription for Ezetrol, unless they have already been changed to Ezemibe.

From 1 November 2015 - only, the Ezemibe brand, will be funded.

Vytorin to Zimybe tablets

From 1 June 2015 - Zimybe will be listed on the Pharmaceutical Schedule.

From 1 August 2015 - patients may need to pay a part payment for a prescription for Vytorin, unless they have already been changed to Zimybe.

From 1 November 2015 - only the Zimybe brand, will be funded.

If you would like further information, please contact the PHARMAC enquiries team at either enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz or by Freephone 0800 66 00 50.

Patient information is available to download and print at www.pharmac.health.nz/medicines/my-medicine-has-changed/ or can be ordered from www.pharmaonline.co.nz



