

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 30/31 May 2011

Question: E11-070

OUTCOME 2: Access to Pharmaceutical Services

Topic: PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME DEFERRALS

Written Question on Notice

Senator Coonan asked:

What are the alternative medicines that are equivalent to the following deferred items. Please include their respective generic and/or brand names:

- Duodart (dutasteride with tamsulosin hydrochloride)
- Invega Sustenna (paliperadone palmitate)
- Targin (oxycodone/naloxone)
- Symbicort (budesonide with eformoterol)
- Botox (botulinum toxin type A)
- Fragmin (dalteparin sodium)
- Synarel (nafarelin)

Answer:

The following table lists therapeutically similar medicines to those specified by Senator Coonan:

Medicine	Indication	Alternative PBS medicine
Duodart [®] (dutasteride with tamsulosin hydrochloride)	Enlarged prostate	Single agents Avodart [®] (dutasteride) Prasozin (multiple brands)
Invega Sustenna [®] (paliperadone palmitate)	Schizophrenia.	Risperdal Consta [®] (risperidone) long acting injection or Zyprexa Relprew [®] (olanzapine) long acting injection
Targin [®] (oxycodone/naloxone)	Chronic disabling pain not responding to non-narcotic pain medicines.	Single agent long acting oxycodone (multiple brands) plus various PBS listed laxatives (which are also available over the counter at lower prices for general patients)
Symbicort [®] (budesonide with eformoterol)	Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease	Seretide [®] (fluticasone with salmeterol)

Botox [®] (botulinum toxin type A)	Severe excessive underarm sweating	No alternate option on PBS, but drugs to treat secondary infections are available
Fragmin [®] (dalteparin sodium)	Treatment of blood clots in patients with cancer.	Clexane [®] (enoxaparin sodium)
Synarel [®] (nafarelin)	In vitro fertilisation (IVF) program	Cetrotide [®] (cetrotorelix) Ganirelix [®] (orgalutran)