

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1

2.21 The committee recommends that the government examine ways in which there can be greater engagement with consumers in decisions to create new therapeutic groups, particularly when considering the potential impacts new therapeutic groups may have on consumers.

Recommendation 2

2.42 The committee recommends that the Pharmaceutical Benefits Advisory Committee:

- develop agreed principles of what constitutes "interchangeable on an individual patient basis";
- develop criteria by which the "interchangeability" of a medicine will be determined; and
- publish both the agreed principles and criteria.

Recommendation 3

3.10 The committee recommends that the Department of Health and Ageing provide regular and ongoing education and information to prescribers to ensure they are aware of the exemptions from payment of a brand premium and the process for seeking those exemptions on behalf of a patient.

Recommendation 4

4.8 The committee recommends that:

- the threshold for Cabinet consideration of high cost medicines be adjusted, initially to the value the threshold would have had, had it been indexed annually since 2001;
- subsequently, the threshold should be indexed annually; and
- the Department of Health and Ageing examine the most appropriate indicator for indexing the threshold.

