

22 April 2020

Kia ora

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – Discontinuation of Phenelzine sulphate 15 mg tablet

We are writing to inform you that Link Healthcare, the supplier of phenelzine tablets (Nardil), has notified PHARMAC that they can no longer supply this medication in New Zealand.

Phenelzine is a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) indicated for the treatment of depression. Nardil is the only Medsafe registered brand of phenelzine tablets in New Zealand. Link Healthcare has had difficulty supplying this brand and has supplied two alternative brands under section 29, Nardil S29 and Lupin.

This is a global issue with all jurisdictions having difficulty sourcing phenelzine. Consequently, Link Healthcare can no longer guarantee supply of any brand of phenelzine.

Link Healthcare have informed us of an increase in phenelzine demand and expect all remaining stock of Nardil, Nardil S29 and Lupin to be depleted by **mid-late May 2020**.

What this means for you

People taking phenelzine will need to be changed to another antidepressant. There are approximately 100 patients currently taking phenelzine tablets in New Zealand.

You should:

- ensure no new patients are started on phenelzine
- transition patients currently on phenelzine on to alternative treatments as soon as possible

We have received clinical advice from the Mental Health Subcommittee of the Pharmacology and Therapeutics Advisory Committee (one of our expert clinical advisory groups). They advise that tranylcypromine sulphate would be an appropriate alternative MAOI for patients, however, treatment changes need to be individualised for each patient. General practitioners should consult with a psychiatrist regarding treatment options and transition.

We appreciate that it is not always easy to change patients onto different medicines and apologise for any inconvenience caused to you and your patients during this difficult time.

You can find information on this discontinuation on our website www.pharmac.govt.nz. If you have any further questions about this discontinuation, please contact us on email enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Tristan Gardiner', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Tristan Gardiner
Clinical Advisor, Primary Care