

Canterbury
District Health Board
Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha
CORPORATE OFFICE

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9(2)(a)

RE Official Information Act request CDHB 10232

I refer to your email, dated 22 November 2019 requesting the following information under the Official Information Act from Canterbury DHB regarding Lamotrigine. Specifically:

- **Any internal and external correspondence and/or details and content of meetings regarding the Lamotrigine brand change or Lamotrigine from 1 February 2019 - present. Eg, any internal correspondence between CDHB staff members and any correspondence sent or received between the CDHB and/or its staff and Pharmac, Medsafe, CARM, Epilepsy NZ, other NGOs, media, patients or any other parties or individuals regarding the Lamotrigine brand change or Lamotrigine itself.**

The following information has been identified as within the scope of your request:

Date	Information attached (below)
1 November	PHARMAC request, <i>Support for the Lamotrigine Brand Change</i>
27 November	Pharmacy News item, <i>Lamotrigine brand change</i> .

In addition, on 12 November the Canterbury DHB received a communication from Medsafe, *Suspected adverse reaction reports to lamotrigine after changing brands*. This is publicly available at <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/safety/Alerts/Lamotrigine.asp>

I trust that this satisfies your interest in this matter.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Canterbury DHB website after your receipt of this response.

Yours sincerely



Carolyn Gullery
Executive Director
Planning, Funding & Decision Support

1 November	PHARMAC request, <i>Support for the Lamotrigine Brand Change</i>
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Support for the Lamotrigine Brand Change

We would appreciate your support in distributing the following information regarding the lamotrigine brand change to clinical staff in DHBs involved in treating epilepsy. We are sending the same info out through our GP and Neurology communication channels.

On 1 October 2019 the number of funded brands of lamotrigine reduced from three (Lamictal, Arrow-Lamotrigine and Logem) to one (Logem only). While the majority of patients have moved to the Logem brand there may still be some individuals yet to change brands who may have some concerns.

PHARMAC will consider a funding application from a prescriber for a specific brand of lamotrigine for their patients who, due to exceptional clinical difficulties, are unable to try a change of brand to Logem or who have tried, but have not tolerated the change. Additional information about the exceptional circumstances process, including [application forms](#) are available on the PHARMAC website: [information for health professionals](#).

Some people may return to their GP with concerns following the change to the Logem brand and may need additional support to make a successful change. In these cases, the GP visit co-payment may be waived and PHARMAC will reimburse the GP clinic on invoice. Additional information about the reimbursement process, including [pro-forma invoices](#) are available on the PHARMAC website: [information for health professionals](#).

General information about the brand change including downloadable [patient information leaflets](#) is also available. Bpacnz published an [article](#) which includes practical advice on supporting the lamotrigine brand change and includes background on the evidence behind the decision to change brands.

If you have any question you can contact PHARMAC on 0800 66 00 50 or e-mail enquiry@pharmac.govt.nz

27 November	Pharmacy News item, <i>Lamotrigine brand change</i> .
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Lamotrigine brand change

Logem is the only brand funded now.

PHARMAC will consider a funding application from a prescriber for a specific brand of lamotrigine for their patients who, due to exceptional clinical difficulties, are unable to try a change of brand to Logem or who have tried, but have not tolerated the change. Additional information about the exceptional circumstances process, including [application forms](#) are available on the PHARMAC website: [information for health professionals](#).

We will not be keeping alternative brands in the EDC due to risk of inadvertent brand substitution.