

11 October 2021

Chief Executive Officer
Unicorn Foundation NZ
By email: michelle@unicornfoundation.org.nz

Tēnā koe Michelle,

Octreotide long-acting brand change

Thank you for your letter about the octreotide long-acting brand change.

We appreciate the Unicorn Foundation's proactive approach with your planned survey. We know that brand changes can be difficult for patients and health professionals and want to support this change as best we can. We are keen to be kept informed about anything you hear back.

The new brand of octreotide long-acting, Octreotide Depot Teva, is approved by Medsafe for use in New Zealand. As part of Medsafe's evaluation, its bioequivalence to the reference product, Sandostatin LAR, was assessed. We would encourage the Unicorn Foundation to engage with Medsafe regarding any questions it may have around the regulatory assessment process.

As you may already be aware, if people do experience any adverse effects with octreotide, whether it is part of a change in brand or not, these should be reported to CARM: <https://nzphvc.otago.ac.nz/reporting/>. They are set up to monitor any adverse effects that might occur with medicines, and they share these reports with Medsafe.

We understand that, regardless of the brand, octreotide injections are technical to deliver. We are working with the supplier to create resources to support the administration of octreotide. We will share these with you and would appreciate any review or feedback you may have on these.

Pharmac staff are working through the evaluation of the lanreotide tender. Unfortunately as this item is still being evaluated, there is no new information we can share regarding likely timeframes for decision. As a new investment, lanreotide is considered against Pharmac's other Options for Investment which can be affected by a variety of factors including price and available funding. We will continue to evaluate the lanreotide tender and will update you when this progresses.

Again, thanks for getting in touch about the change. Please get in touch with Chippy Compton, Therapeutic Group Manager (alexandra.compton@pharmac.govt.nz) to provide any further feedback.

Ngā mihi nui,



Sarah Fitt
Chief Executive

cc: Di Sarfati, Te Aho o Te Kahu