



## THE PAEDIATRIC SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND

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Alex Rodgers  
Therapeutic Group Manager  
PHARMAC  
Po Box 10-254  
Level 9, 40 Mercer St  
Wellington

Dear Alex,

On behalf of the Paediatric and Therapeutics Special Interest Group of the NZ Paediatric Society, we would like PHARMAC to reconsider the importance of funding sodium picosulphate (Dulcolax SP®) drops. These are now registered and we have asked for them to be subsidised with special authority. We would also like them to be placed on the HML.

Over the years, we have sent in many data and submissions from various agencies in support of these drops. Registration in NZ is the first step in the process and we now would like to have them funded for use in the community. The reason for this is the importance of preventing impaction by having a paediatric product available. This in turn would decrease the burden of hospital admissions for constipation and the huge impact this has on families. This is due not only to the interventions required to site Naso-gastric tubes often requiring sedation, the monitoring required by nurses but also the impact on quality of life both as an inpatient and in the community.

Some examples of recent admissions include:

- Klean prep – recently 3 admissions with up to 10 sachets daily over 3-5 days at a cost of \$37 per day excluding hospital costs which can be upwards of \$1500 per day.
- Child admitted after 2 weeks of vomiting and diarrhoea, 5kg weight loss. Bowels not opened for 3 weeks.
- Another admission where the child was admitted for 10 days with continuous klean prep being administered. The mother was on a 3 month trial at a new job and already had 3 weeks off work as had two children with the same problems.
- Another child admitted – for 8 days as will not tolerate volumes except via NG tube
- One outpatient charted moloxole sachets x 3 twice daily until loose bowels then one sachet daily – adjust as needed. Unsure if will tolerate this at home.

We see these sorts of examples on a weekly basis. In the UK where sodium picosulphate liquid has been available in the community for years, children are seldom admitted for dis-impaction. The burden of chronic constipation on hospitals and whanau in terms of time off work whilst their child is an inpatient, attending outpatient clinics, quality of life with struggling to get children to drink large quantities of moloxole or similar is enormous.

We would ask PHARMAC to reconsider where this low-cost product currently sits on the priority list. We would also ask that they review the data we have already sent over the years to support our request to have this product listed on the HML and funded with special authority in the community.

If you require the previous submissions and data, please let me know urgently so I can forward these to you.

Yours sincerely

Louise McDermott



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## Approximate cost of laxatives 2018 (to hospital ex GST)

Laxative	Dose over 3 months	Cost	Cost over 3 months
Macrogol – Moloxole sachet	4 – 8 sachets daily (each in 125ml volume)	\$0.23 per sachet	\$82.80 - \$165.60
Macrogol – Klean prep	Volume in Litres usually via a NG tube	\$3.70 per sachet	\$370 for 10 days dis-impaction (plus hospital costs in the \$1000's)
Lactulose	60ml daily	\$3.29 per 500ml	\$35.53
Picosulphate drops	5mg (0.6ml) daily	\$12.95 per 30ml	<b>\$23.31</b>

Email to local community pharmacy re picosulphate drops 23/10/18 – their cost to customer currently is \$26

343260	2555611	9316090506003	Dulcolax SP Drops 7.5mg/mL (30mL)	\$12.95
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