



Together we're stronger
Tangata tū pakari tonu

Chippy Alex Compton

Therapeutic Group Manager, Oncology

29th November 2022

Re: Tender for Goserelin

Dear Chippy,

I'm writing to you regarding the recently released Pharmac tender that includes Goserelin.

BCAC has learned from many patients and oncologists that the currently funded product, Goserelin Teva, causes many serious problems that mean it should be urgently replaced. When we communicated about this issue late in 2021, Pharmac indicated that the opportunity to do this would arise with a new tender, and this process is now under way.

The current product has a faulty delivery device. Despite claims from the company, this is not simply a matter of education on how to use the device. Experienced oncologists and breast care nurses have commented that despite their best efforts and following the instructions to the letter, the device often fails to deliver the capsule as required. The capsule sometimes falls onto the bed near the patient or only partially inserts, requiring a second loaded device to be used. The device also has a blunt needle that causes bruising, bleeding and significant pain to patients. We have heard this directly from many patients and also from clinicians and breast care nurses who have reported that some of their patients are refusing further ovarian function suppression because of the trauma, stress and pain caused by the device. This is a dangerous decision for patients as this treatment improves long-term outcomes for hormone receptor positive breast cancer. This issue did not occur with the previous product, Zoladex Goserelin.

Clinicians have stated that despite their reporting multiple CARM events there has been absolutely no response or change resulting from these, and they have consequently given up on writing such reports as it is a waste of their precious time. This is disappointing to hear.

We urge Pharmac to urgently replace Goserelin Teva to ensure that patients, treating clinicians and breast care nurses are spared its stressful consequences and patients have a treatment that will deliver the best outcomes.

Ngā mihi,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'E. P. J. Burgess'.

Libby Burgess,

Chair, Breast Cancer Aotearoa Coalition

