



ANZCA
FPM

*Te Whare Tohu o
Te Hau Whakaora*

30th January 30, 2024

Pharmac
PO Box 10254
The Terrace
Wellington 6143

(Copy of web submission)

Funding for Lidocaine Hydrochloride: (ANZCA) Faculty of Pain Medicine NZ

On behalf of the NZNC FPMANZCA, we support the proposal to fund lidocaine hydrochloride 10% solution to manage pain for people receiving palliative care.

Adequate pain management is a crucial part of palliative care and this group have high health need. People who have uncontrolled neuropathic or visceral pain which is not adequately managed with other anti-neuropathic analgesics and, where the IV route is not appropriate, would have greatest benefit.

We suggest you consider expanding the restrictions to include people receiving palliative care with hyperalgesia and/or visceral pain in addition to those with neuropathic pain. It should also be considered for use in palliative care or intensive care where an IV route is appropriate but there is a need for less frequent syringe changes. (This need may relate to issues such as adequate staffing or infection risk).

We recommend a specific safety warning regarding the strength. There is a higher risk of accidental overdose due to drug error with this concentration. It should be noted that 3mL is potentially toxic for a 70kg person. Life threatening toxicity is much more likely with a minor drug error than with the current lower strength lidocaine formulations. This risk is further increased due to the lack of familiarity with using high dose lidocaine in New Zealand.

Sent on behalf of

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Deputy Chair NZNC FPM

For further information please contact:

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