

24 March 2015

**MSD**

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**Update on Supply Constraints – ONCOTICE (BCG Vaccine 500MCFU)**

**Availability of SII-ONCO BCG (40 mg/ml, 1 - 19.2 x 10<sup>8</sup> CFU)**

Dear Healthcare Professional:

This letter is to further update you on the status of supply for these two products in New Zealand.

We are pleased to inform you that Oncotice is now available for delivery in New Zealand. However, supply of Oncotice remains limited throughout the world and we expect supply constraints to continue for much of 2015.

There remains a considerable volume of SII-ONCO available for purchase from Te Aria Biofarma.

Since BCG Vaccine remains in short supply worldwide we consider that the most responsible course of action in New Zealand is to ensure that all stocks of product within our local control are fully used. However, we also understand the reluctance to switch patients between products; hence we are not withholding Oncotice until the SII-ONCO is exhausted.

**PHARMAC, MSD and Te Arai request your help in ensuring that both products are used responsibly.**

**We suggest that patients that have already been switched to or started on SII-ONCO should continue to be prescribed that product. Other patients could resume on Oncotice.**

SII-ONCO BCG will continue to be listed on the Pharmaceutical Schedule, please contact PHARMAC for any subsidy queries.

The continued availability of Oncotice throughout 2015 depends upon the relief that is provided by the availability of SII-ONCO. Failure to capitalise on the availability of this product will increase the probability of further local stock shortages in 2015.

We hope this letter gives you the best and latest information to help manage your patients. Please contact MSD Customer Services on 0800 500 673 for any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Hartevelt', is written over a light blue rectangular background.

Michael Hartevelt  
Market Access Manager  
MSD New Zealand