At present there are multiple brands of some of the fully subsidised antipsychotics on the Pharmaceutical Schedule. For some medicines, a single brand is to become the only fully subsidised brand. The first medicines to change are: olanzapine tablets and orodispersible tablets, quetiapine tablets and risperidone oral liquid (Table 1). Risperidone tablets will be changing to a sole-subsidised brand later in the year or early next year; this will be notified closer to the time.

From 1 July 2014, patients should begin to be changed to the sole subsidised brand (Table 1). The other brands will also remain on the Schedule for a five month transition period. However, from 1 September 2014, patients who have not changed to the fully subsidised brand may be charged a part payment to continue with their chosen brand. From 1 December 2014, only the sole supply brand will be subsidised.

These changes only apply to the specific brands listed and patients will have access to the same range of fully subsidised atypical antipsychotic medicines as they did previously.

Patients taking antipsychotic medicines, e.g. patients with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, often benefit from stable

Table 1: Changes in subsidy to atypical antipsychotic medicines available on the Community Pharmaceutical Schedule from 1 December, 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Medicine</th>
<th>Formulation</th>
<th>Sole supply brand</th>
<th>Current brands</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Olanzapine</td>
<td>Tablets (2.5 mg, 5 mg, 10 mg)</td>
<td>Zypine</td>
<td>Dr Reddy’s Olanzapine, Zyprexa, Olanzine, Zypine</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Orodispersible tablets (5 mg, 10 mg)</td>
<td>Zypine ODT</td>
<td>Olanzine-D, Dr Reddy’s Olanzapine, Zyprexa Zydis, Zypine ODT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quetiapine</td>
<td>Tablets (25 mg, 100 mg, 200 mg, 300 mg)</td>
<td>Quetapal</td>
<td>Seroquel, Dr Reddy’s Quetiapine, Quetapal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risperidone</td>
<td>Oral liquid 1mg/mL</td>
<td>Risperon</td>
<td>Apo-Risperidone, Risperdal, Risperon</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The bestpractice Acne Management module provides tools for the initial assessment of acne severity, context sensitive advice, treatment and management options.

The module features guidance on the safe prescribing of isotretinoin, including:

- **Contraindications, cautions and side effects**
- **Laboratory testing requirements and scheduling**
- **Patient information**
- **Patient consent documents**

More information is available at:

www.bestpractice.net.nz

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**References**
