

## **RECENTLY FUNDED TREATMENT OPTION FOR PATIENTS WITH SCHIZOPHRENIA.**

SF Auckland staff recently met with Pfizer's Hospital Sales Representative (Auckland), Sandra Crous, who talked with the Fieldwork team about the recently subsidized atypical antipsychotic ,Zeldox. As a newly available treatment option (in New Zealand) for service users diagnosed with schizophrenia, SF are happy to include Sandra's information about Zeldox in the interests of informing families and whanau of developments in the sector.

Zeldox (Ziprasidone HCl) is an atypical anti-psychotic that has recently been made available in New Zealand as a fully funded treatment option by Pharmac<sup>1\*</sup>. Zeldox is used to treat the symptoms of Schizophrenia. Over 2 million patients worldwide are currently treated with Zeldox.

### **Why take Zeldox?**

In clinical trials Zeldox use was not associated with significant weight gain in the majority of people taking Zeldox, and many people who previously received treatments with other antipsychotic medications demonstrated weight loss after transition to Zeldox therapy<sup>3</sup>.

The incidence of body weight gain in short term studies (4-6 weeks duration) was low (most commonly 0.5kg). In a one year study the most common observation was a weight loss of 1-3kg compared to a weight loss of 3kg in those not taking medicine. Some people may gain weight while taking Zeldox<sup>3</sup>. Furthermore, in people receiving Zeldox no significant changes in total cholesterol levels were observed. Zeldox is also associated with a low incidence of movement disorders and although it may cause transient rises in prolactin levels, a hormone which is often associated with sexual dysfunction, associated symptoms were rare<sup>3</sup>.

Zeldox may not be suitable for everyone. Please be sure to discuss treatment options with your doctor. Only you and your doctor can decide if it is right for you.

*Zeldox should not be taken if you have a condition with an abnormal heart rhythm which requires drugs to control the heart rhythm, if you have heart failure or you have had a recent heart attack. Caution is required for use in pregnancy, in those with a history of fits or severe liver disease. Children under 18 should not take Zeldox. Possible side effects include drowsiness, trouble in sleeping, dizziness, abnormal movements, agitation, weakness, constipation, diarrhoea, dry mouth and nausea. These may not happen at all in a number of patients.*

*Use Zeldox strictly as directed. If symptoms continue or you have side effects see your doctor, pharmacist or health care professional.*

*For further information please contact Pfizer NZ Ltd. Tel: 09 638 0000, or contact your local clinical team.*

**Zeldox™ (ziprasidone hydrochloride) is a prescription medicine used as a treatment for schizophrenia, and maintenance or continuation therapy. Consult your doctor to see if Zeldox is right for you. Normal Dr visit fees apply.**

Further medicine details are available at [www.medsafe.govt.nz](http://www.medsafe.govt.nz)

Pfizer New Zealand LTD PO Box 3998, Auckland. Level 3 Pfizer House, 14 Normanby Rd, Mt Eden Auckland. 0800 736 363 RA number 080208A TAPS Approval No: **NA2836, DA 84AC**

\* (criteria applies)

References:

- 1 NZ pharmaceutical schedule
- 2 NZ Zeldox CMI
- 3 NZ Zeldox Data Sheet