

10 March 2021

PHARMAC

By email: consult@pharmac.govt.nz

Proposal to fully fund Mercilon 28 for oral contraception

Dear Colleague

The NZMA wishes to provide feedback on the above proposal. We note that PHARMAC is proposing to fully fund Mercilon 28 (ethinylloestradiol 20 mcg with desogestrel 150 mcg tablets and 7 inert tablets) for oral contraception for all women. We are strongly supportive of this proposal which will provide a welcome additional fully funded option for women requiring combined oral contraceptives. We would also like to see PHARMAC fully fund Marvelon 28 which has the same constituents as Mercilon 28 but the ethinylloestradiol is 30 mcg not 20 mcg. This would mean that the full range of combined oral contraceptive options are available.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kate Baddock
NZMA Chair