

31 May 2010

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

By email to: community.affairs.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary

**Inquiry into Consumer Access to Pharmaceutical Benefits
Supplementary Submission and Response to Questions on Notice**

Janssen-Cilag Australia is pleased to provide a brief supplementary submission and response to questions on notice. We appreciate the extension granted for this response.

We have noted the Medicines Australia Supplementary Submission dated 31 May 2010. We support this submission.

With regard to its response on a definition of interchangeability, we simply add that there should be one clear and consistent definition adopted across government. The present definition of the Pharmaceutical Benefits Pricing Authority (quoted by Mr Lindsay of Sanofi-Aventis) should be taken account of and the TGA's role (as per that definition) clarified in any broader accepted definition.

Additionally, we wish to add to its response concerning the consideration of medicines for interchangeability. To meet the objectives of accountability and transparency, we believe that a decision by the PBAC in relation to interchangeability should be able to be subjected to independent review. Further, the due process sought in the Medicines Australia Supplementary Submission should be afforded to other relevant stakeholders including clinicians and patients.

We cannot respond to the third question on notice to pharmaceutical companies (relating to cost differences) as we have not to date been directly affected by the policy.

Janssen-Cilag Australia stands by its earlier written and oral submissions and once again calls for the therapeutic groups policy to cease.

Please contact me should you seek any clarification or further information.

Yours sincerely

Tim James
Manager
Corporate & Government Affairs