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Dear Healthcare Professional

**INVOKANA® (CANAGLIFLOZIN)
REMOVAL FROM THE PHARMACEUTICAL BENEFITS SCHEME ON 1 AUGUST 2015**

I am writing to inform you that INVOKANA® (canagliflozin) will be removed from the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) on **1 August 2015** and will therefore no longer be reimbursed by the PBS. As you will be aware, INVOKANA is registered for the treatment of Type 2 Diabetes.

The decision to remove INVOKANA® from the PBS is not one Janssen has taken lightly, particularly since this medicine has only been available through the PBS for little over a year and that approximately 4,500 patients are currently being treated with this medication. In addition, 26 Janssen employees will be impacted by this decision.

In December 2014, Janssen was requested by the Department of Health, to either take a significant price reduction of close to 40% on INVOKANA®, or face the medicine being removed from the PBS. A price cut of this magnitude would result in INVOKANA no longer being commercially viable. Therefore the company was not in a position to accept this price reduction.

It is important to advise you that the decision to remove INVOKANA® from the PBS was made solely as the result of a significant reduction in pricing from the Department of Health, and not on the basis of the safety, quality, or efficacy of the compound.

Janssen's primary concern is now to ensure that patients currently receiving INVOKANA® are appropriately managed in the period before the medicine is removed from the PBS on 1 August 2015. After this date the medicine will still be available however only via private prescription. As such, we ask that you please **not initiate any new patients on INVOKANA**, unless they are made fully aware that as of 1 August 2015 they will need to transition to a private prescription with cost implications.

Please refer to the INVOKANA® Product Information, available from Janssen Medical Information or via http://www.janssen.com.au/files/Products/Invokana_PI.pdf should you need any information on this product.

If you have further questions in regards to the removal of INVOKANA® from the PBS, please contact Janssen Medical Information on 1800 226 334 or medinfo@janau.jnj.com.

The National Prescribing Service (NPS) *MedicineWise* is also aware of the removal of INVOKANA® from the PBS and will provide information on alternative treatment options in their April NPS RADAR.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause to you or your patients and endeavor to assist you during this time.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Hourigan
MANAGING DIRECTOR



Dr Leanne Wall
MEDICAL DIRECTOR