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NZSSD EXECUTIVE PRESS RELEASE

“Long-acting insulin analogues should be fully subsidised treatment for all people with Type 1 diabetes”

This was one of the main recommendations made by Associate Professor Patrick Manning when he spoke to the Parliamentarians for Diabetes meeting held on August 27.

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune disorder resulting in the destruction of the cells in the pancreas that produce insulin. This results in increasing blood glucose levels. People with Type 1 diabetes require insulin injections multiple times per day to replace the absent hormone and control their blood glucose levels.

“Long-acting insulin analogues are a recent advance in the treatment of Type 1 diabetes. They significantly reduce the risk of low blood glucose levels (or ‘hypoglycaemic events’) which can be distressing and disruptive for people with the condition. For some people long-acting insulin analogues improve blood glucose levels dramatically” said Manning.

Other countries that spend a similar percentage of their GDP on health, for example, Australia and the United Kingdom, fully fund these insulins for all people with Type 1 diabetes.

“Funding in New Zealand was targeted at approximately only 10% of people with Type 1 diabetes, meaning many people miss out” Manning explained.

Manning estimated that an additional \$5 million per year would allow all people with Type 1 diabetes to be treated with this type of insulin.

For more information, please contact:

Associate Professor Patrick Manning. NZSSD President. Phone: (027) 4770242

Secretariat: Edgar National Centre for Diabetes Research
Department of Medical and Surgical Sciences, University of Otago,
PO Box 913, Dunedin 9054, New Zealand
Tel 64 3 474 7775 or 64 3 470 3805 • Fax 64 3 474 7641 • Email info@nzssd.org.nz
www.nzssd.org.nz