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News release
22 June 2016

Availability of *Metoprolol* heart medication

A global shortage of the heart medication *Metoprolol* is one of the reasons behind the current short supplies being experienced in New Zealand says AFT Pharmaceuticals (AFT). Ongoing issues with AFT's international manufacturer continue to impact on stock levels for New Zealand.

"AFT is working closely with PHARMAC to resolve the supply issues given the current global stock and manufacturing constraints," said Managing Director, Dr Hartley Atkinson.

"Continuity of supply for New Zealand patients is our primary concern at the moment. We understand the gravity of the situation and that some patients will be concerned."

Dr Atkinson notes that AFT has been using the same manufacturing site for over 7 years without any supply issue arising. "This is one of those manufacturing issues that we couldn't have foreseen. We've been faced with a situation of non-delivery of orders that we placed quite some time ago. But with any manufactured products, there can be supply-chain issues, and so we're working really hard to resolve those as quickly as we can."

"This issue is likely to have some effect on revenues for FY17 but we cannot quantify the impact at this stage. We are continuing to work hard to deal with the problem and will update the market in due course," said Dr Atkinson.

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