

Media Release

10 September, 2013

DVA announce reimbursement for Souvenaid

Souvenaid[®], a medical food¹ demonstrated to nutritionally support the memory of people with mild Alzheimer's disease², is now more accessible for Australians, thanks to new funding from the Department of Veteran's Affairs (DVA).

The DVA has confirmed that it will accept RPRC (Repatriation Pharmaceutical Reference Committee) applications for Souvenaid, in writing, from clinicians. These applications for patients with mild Alzheimer's disease will be assessed on a case by case basis by the RPRC. This funding is applicable to all DVA Gold card holders.



Launched locally in May 2013 by Nutricia Advanced Medical Nutrition, Souvenaid offer Australians with mild Alzheimer's disease an evidenced-based nutritional approach.

Professor Henry Brodaty, Scientia Professor of Ageing and Mental Health and Director of the Dementia Collaborative Research Centre at the University of New South Wales, Sydney, said the DVA funding announcement means that Souvenaid will be more accessible to Australian patients with mild Alzheimer's disease.

Clinicians are able to submit a RPRC *initial treatment application* and a RPRC *continuing treatment application*, where applicable, for Souvenaid funding. An initial approval will be valid for three (3) months.

A clinical review of efficacy of Souvenaid is required for funding to be continued. The *continuing treatment application* needs to include a measure of 'treatment' effectiveness e.g. change in MMSE or other objective improvement in mental state. It is also advised to include any other relevant information such as changes to quality of life or activities of daily living, reported by caregivers and/or family members.

Containing a unique, patented combination of nutrients, called Fortasyn[™] Connect, Souvenaid is specifically designed to address the nutritional needs of people in the early stages of Alzheimer's disease^{2,3,4}. The combination of nutrients found in Souvenaid supports synapse formation and memory function and is included at levels difficult for people to achieve through their normal dietary intake alone.

For further information, please contact the Nutricia Clinical Care Line on 1800 060 051 or visit www.souvenaid.com.au

¹ FSANZ Food Code – Standard 2.9.5 <http://www.comlaw.gov.au/Series/F2012L01347>

² Scheltens P et al. *Alzheimers Dement* 2010;6:1–10.e1.;

³ Scheltens Pet al. *J Alzheimers Dis* 2012;31:225–36.

⁴ Mi W, et al. *Nutrition* 2013; 29:9: 1080-1089; <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.nut.2013.01.024>