



health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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## NOTICE TO ALL DOCTORS, NURSES AND PHARMACISTS

### THERAPEUTIC ALTERNATIVES TO NEVIRAPINE SUSPENSION FOR USE IN NEONATES FOR PREVENTION OF MOTHER TO CHILD TRANSMISSION

The contracted suppliers for nevirapine suspension are experiencing supply problems. Suppliers will only be able to resume supply as follows:

- 100 mL – end August 2014
- 240 mL – January 2015

The recommended therapeutic alternative is:

- Zidovudine, oral

Infant age	Daily dosing
Birth to 6 weeks	
• Birthweight 2000-2499 g	10 mg twice daily
• Birthweight $\geq$ 2500 g	15 mg twice daily

The other acceptable alternative is:

- Lamivudine, oral, 2 mg/kg/dose 12 hourly

The duration of treatment is the same as set out in the nevirapine-based PMTCT guidelines. See the Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List for Paediatrics (2013 edition, page 9.6)

Please ensure that the contents of this circular is brought to the attention of all relevant prescribers.

**MR G STEEL**  
**CLUSTER MANAGER: SECTORWIDE PROCUREMENT**  
**DATE: 19-08-2014**