



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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NOTICE: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RATIONAL USE OF ABACAVIR 600MG/LAMIVUDINE 300MG AND ZIDOVUDINE 300MG/LAMIVUDINE 150MG DUAL COMBINATION FORMULATIONS

The contracted supplier of Abacavir (ABC) 600mg/Lamivudine (3TC) 300mg and Zidovudine (AZT) 300mg/3TC 150mg dual formulation tablets is unable to meet its contractual obligation due to an ongoing global shortage of 3TC, which has resulted in supply challenges. The contracted supplier is acquiring limited supplies of these agents using alternative methods.

However, due to the current supply constraints, rational use of these medicines and appropriate monitoring is recommended by all provinces and health care facilities until the supply is fully restored. This may include implementing measures such as the redistribution of stock to facilities in need or the provision of a lower quantity of stock than usual to the patient e.g. issuing only a month's supply at a time.

In case of complete stock out of ABC 600mg/3TC 300mg and AZT 300mg/3TC 150mg dual formulation tablets available at a facility, the recommended therapeutic alternative is Tenofovir (TDF) 300mg/Emtricitabine (FTC) 200mg dual formulation tablet, with the following caveats:

- For patients on second-line anti-retroviral therapy on AZT, 3TC and lopinavir- or atazanavir-ritonavir: change the AZT/3TC dual combination tablet to TDF/FTC dual combination tablet.
- For patients on ABC/3TC dual combination tablets with renal impairment, dose TDF/FTC according to estimated Glomerular Filtration Rate (eGFR) and monitor renal function monthly:
 - Greater than 50 ml/min: issue full dose (*i.e.* one dual combination tablet);
 - Between 30-49 ml/min: issue a dose on alternate days;
 - Less than 30 ml/min: avoid administering TDF/FTC; these patients should receive the single formulation tablets ABC 600 mg and 3TC 150 mg daily.

The National Department of Health will be monitoring the situation closely in consultation with the provinces, and will continue to provide updated communication on this matter.

Comments may be submitted to:

Supply queries

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Queries related to therapeutic alternatives

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Kind regards

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