



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X828, **PRETORIA**, 0001, Civitas Building, Pretoria

Reference: 2020/05/13/EDP/01

NOTICE: AVAILABILITY OF VENLAFAXINE 75MG AND 150MG

The Tertiary and Quaternary Level Essential Medicines List (March 2020) recommends the use of venlafaxine as a third-line treatment of major depressive disorder and anxiety associated with depression (----*to be prescribed by a psychiatrist only*).

The current contracted supplier of venlafaxine, Sandoz South Africa (Pty) Ltd, has indicated that as a result of the Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient (API) manufacturing being halted, alternative stock from a third party supplier will be provided until the end of the contract period (30th May 2021). The stock will be supplied with the following three significant differences:

- The alternative venlafaxine 75mg stock that will be provided until the end of the contract, will be an ***immediate release product*** rather than the extended release product;
- Only venlafaxine 75mg stock will be supplied. Venlafaxine 150mg will no longer be available;
- The alternative venlafaxine 75mg stock will be available in a pack size of 60 tablets, rather than 28 tablets.

Provinces and Healthcare Facilities are requested to distribute and communicate this information to all psychiatrists and the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committees.

Kindly share with all healthcare professionals.

Comments and queries may be submitted *via* e-mail:

Stock queries:

Ms Maureen Masinge

Tel: 012 395 9683

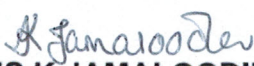
E-mail: Maureen.Masinge@health.gov.za

Clinical queries:

Essential Drugs Programme

E-mail: SAEDP@health.gov.za

Kind regards


MS K JAMALOODIEN

DIRECTOR: AFFORDABLE MEDICINES

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