



MEDIA STATEMENT

TO: All Media

ATT: News Editors, Health Reporters

For immediate release

Sunday, 09 August 2020

GAUTENG DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH HAS PUT MEASURES IN PLACE TO MITIGATE THE SHORTAGES OF MEDICATION

The Gauteng Department of Health has put measures in place to mitigate the shortages of medication in the public health facilities across the Province. These measures include the following:

- Buying out against contracted suppliers.
- Asking suppliers that are not on contract to manufacture some of the products.
- Penalising suppliers for late deliveries.
- Engagements with suppliers to resolve supply challenges.

The shortages of medication are as a result of the following:

- The shortage of Active Pharmaceutical Ingredient
- Lock down regulations as manufacturers are not allowed to operate at full capacity in order to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Suppliers are supplying but in limited quantities.
- Inconsistent supply from the manufacturers of finished products
- Increased demand for medicines due to COVID-19 as most countries are stock piling and manufacturers are not coping with the high demand
- Some items not being on contract as most manufacturers are not bidding for tenders.

The shortage of medication affected few patients , who were given alternative medication. In an instance where patients could not be given alternative medication, they are referred back to their treating doctors to recommend an alternative course of treatment.

The following medication shortages have occurred as from March 2020 till to date.

DESCRIPTION	INDICATION	REASON FOR SHORTAGE	EFFECT ON PATIENTS
Terizidone 250mg capsule, 100 capsules	Tuberculosis	Manufacturing Constraints	Alternatives given to patients
Rifampicin, Pyrazinamide, Ethambutol and Isoniazid 150/400/275/75mg tablet, 28 tablets	Tuberculosis	Manufacturing constraints	Other pack sizes are available to be given to patients
Chlorpromazine 100mg tablet, 28 tablets	Schizophrenia	Higher than forecast demand	Alternatives given to patients
Budesonide 100ug oral inhalation	Asthma	High demand	Other alternative therapeutic alternatives are available
Chlorhexidine 4% surgical scrub, 500ml	Antiseptic, disinfectant	High demand	No negative impact on patients as staff members can use water and soap as an alternative.

Valproate sodium 199,8mg and Valproic acid 87mg modified release tablet, 100 tablets	Epilepsy	Manufacturing constraints	Other pack sizes are available for patients
Pyridostigmine 10mg tablet, 50 tablets	Muscle weakness	Higher than forecast demand	Small amounts are given to patients so that it is made available to other patients.
Lamotrigine tablets, all strengths	Seizures, bipolar disorder	Manufacturing constraints	Alternatives given to patients
Olanzapine tablets, all strengths	Bipolar disorder	API issue	Alternatives given to patients
Risperidone 1mg, 2mg, 3mg tablets	Bipolar disorder	Manufacturing Constraints	Alternatives given to patients
Lorazepam 1mg tablets	Anxiety disorders	Manufacturing Constraints	Alternative strengths given to patients
Haloperidol 0.5mg capsules	Schizophrenia, Psychosis	API shortage	Alternative strength given to patients
Omeprazole 20mg capsules	GERD, gastric or duodenal ulcers	Lockdown challenges	Alternatives given to patients
Diazepam 5mg injection	Seizures, anxiety	Manufacturing constraints	Alternatives available to be given to patients
Norethisterone enanthate 200 mg injection 1 ml	Injectable contraceptive	API shortage and regulatory issues	Oral contraceptives and sub-dermal

			implants available
Medroxyprogesterone acetate injection 150mg, 1ml	Injectable contraceptives	Regulatory issues	Oral contraceptives and sub-dermal implants available
Levonorgestrel 0.03mg 28 Tablet	Oral contraceptives	Manufacturing constraints	Other oral contraceptives are available.
Carbamazepine 200mg tablets 28"s	Seizures	Manufacturing constraints	No negative impact on patients as other pack sizes are available
Clonazepam 2mg tablet, 84 tablets	Epilepsy	Manufacturing Constraints	Other alternatives are available.

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