Dolutegravir (DTG) Overview

For further detail on switching **existing stable clients on ART** between regimens, see ***"Switching existing clients to DTG-containing regimens"***

Class of ARV: Integrase Inhibitor (InSTI)

Benefits: DTG is a potent antiretroviral that provides rapid viral suppression, has a high genetic barrier to resistance, and has minimal side effects and drug interactions. It is well tolerated by clients and contributes positively to adherence and retention on ART.

Formulations:

- Fixed-dose combination: tenofovir (TDF) 300 mg + lamivudine (3TC) 300 mg + DTG 50 mg (TLD). TLD can be prescribed for clients ≥ 30 kg and ≥ 10 years of age
- Abacavir (ABC) 600 mg + lamivudine (3TC) 300 mg + DTG 50 mg (ALD). ALD can be prescribed for clients ≥ 25 kg
- DTG 50 mg tablet
- DTG 10 mg dispersible tablet
- Please note that the adult film coated 50 mg tablet and the paediatric dispersible 10 mg tablet are not bioequivalent. The 50mg film coated tablet is the equivalent of 30mg of the dispersible tablets.

Standard Dose: Children ≥ 20 kg; adolescents and adults: DTG 50 mg daily
Children > 4 weeks of age and 3-19 kg: As per ***"Drug Dosing Chart"***

DTG dose with concomitant rifampicin-containing TB treatment: Increase DTG dose to 50 mg 12-hourly. If on TLD or ALD FDC, add DTG 50 mg 12 hours after TLD or ALD dose. If on paediatric DTG, follow ***"Drug Dosing Chart"*** for DTG and concomitant rifampicin-containing TB treatment

Side-effects: Usually mild and self-limiting. Side-effects include insomnia, headache, central nervous system (CNS) effects, and gastrointestinal effects. DTG can be taken in the evening or the morning as per the client's preference. However, if the client develops insomnia, TLD should be taken in the morning.

Contrary to initial speculation that the integrase inhibitor class may be causing **weight gain**, the association now appears not to be causal. Instead, the association may be the result of comparatively less metabolic toxicity than alternative older ART regimens (that mitigate weight gain through toxicity) combined with an initial return-to-health phenomenon, and an obesogenic environment. Dolutegravir-based ART regimens have numerous advantages over comparators and are still recommended first-line agents for people living with HIV. There is no role for switching from dolutegravir-containing regimens in patients gaining weight.