health
Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Enquiries:

| Contracting queries: | Contract Management queries: | Clinical queries: |
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Circular no. 18/05/2025/CMU

**NOTICE: WITHDRAWAL OF PHENOBARBITAL 16MG/5ML 100ML SYRUP FROM CONTRACT HP12-2023LQ/01.**

The Primary Healthcare and Paediatric Hospital Level Standard Treatment Guidelines (STGs) and Essential Medicines List (EML) currently recommends the use of phenobarbital oral therapy for a number of indications including the management of generalised tonic-clonic seizures in infants less than 6 months of age, and as a prophylactic anticonvulsant in certain conditions. Kindly review the STGs and EML for the recommended indications and prescribing guidance. Phenobarbital syrup was generally used in cases where oral phenobarbital was required for infants and children who are unable to swallow.

Adcock Ingram Healthcare SA (Pty) Ltd is the contracted supplier of Phenobarbitone 16mg/5ml 100ml syrup (Item 50) under the HP12-2023LQ/01 tender. The supplier recently withdrew the above-mentioned item from the tender due to the inability of the third-party manufacturer to produce the product due to regulatory issues. Adcock Ingram Healthcare SA (Pty) Ltd is the sole supplier of the above-mentioned item in South Africa therefore alternative measures such as Section 21 access are being considered.

In the interim, it is advised that phenobarbital tablets be utilised as an alternative. Phenobarbital tablets can be crushed and mixed with liquid or food for administration.

The table below outlines the therapeutic alternative product and the contracted supplier. It is recommended that facilities order the alternative product until the way forward has been sought.

| NSN | Product Description | Supplier Name |
|---|---|---|
| 180155499 | Phenobarbital; 30mg; Tablet; 84 Tablets | Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd |
| 180339595 | Phenobarbital; 30mg; Tablet; 56 Tablets | Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd |
| 180190436 | Phenobarbital; 30mg; Tablet; 28 Tablets | Ranbaxy Pharmaceuticals (Pty) Ltd |

Provinces and Healthcare facilities are kindly requested to distribute and communicate this information with all healthcare professionals and relevant stakeholders.

Kind regards,

**MS K JAMALOODIEN**
**CHIEF DIRECTOR: SECTOR WIDE PROCUREMENT**
**DATE:** 20/2/2025