



health

Department:  
Health  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

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**Dear: Heads of Pharmaceutical Services (HOPS) and HIV/AIDS, STI and TB (HAST) Managers**

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE RESTRICTED USE OF ABACAVIR 600MG/LAMIVUDINE 300MG AND ZIDOVUDINE 300MG/LAMIVUDINE 150MG**

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

However due to the current supply problems, rational use of these medicines and appropriate monitoring is recommended by all provinces and health care facilities.

In the event that there is no ABC 600mg/3TC 300mg and AZT 300mg/3TC 150mg tablets at a facility, the recommended therapeutic alternative is Tenofovir/Emtricitabine (TDF-FTC):

- For patients on second-line anti-retroviral therapy (ART) on AZT, 3TC and lopinavir- or atazanavir-ritonavir: change the AZT-3TC combination to TDF-FTC.
- For patients on ABC/3TC with renal impairment, dose TDF-FTC according to eGFR and monitor renal function monthly –
  - >50 full dose
  - 30-49 dose alternate days
  - <30 avoid – these patients should get ABC 600 mg daily and 3TC 150 mg daily

Queries may be submitted to:

**Supply queries**

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**Queries related to therapeutic alternatives**

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Kind regards

**DR T PILLAY**

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE**

**DATE:**

**DR Y PILLAY**

**DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL: NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE**

**DATE:**