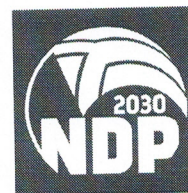




health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Reference: 2026/03/23/EDP/01

NOTICE: RETRACTION OF CIRCULAR REFERENCE 2026/01/19/EDP/01: AVAILABILITY OF NEW ANTIRETROVIRAL PRODUCTS: PAEDIATRIC ABACAVIR/ LAMIVUDINE/ DOLUTEGRAVIR (ABC/3TC/DTG) 60mg/30mg/5mg FIXED-DOSE COMBINATION DISPERSIBLE TABLETS (pALD)

The circular titled *Availability of New Antiretroviral Products: Paediatric Abacavir/Lamivudine/Dolutegravir (ABC/3TC/DTG) 60 mg/30 mg/5 mg Fixed-Dose Combination Dispersible Tablets (pALD)* (Reference: 2026/01/19/EDP/01) was issued on 6 February 2026 to inform provinces, districts, clinical managers, pharmacists, and healthcare workers of the availability of pALD, including its clinical indications, dosing guidance, transition planning, and procurement considerations.

Subsequently, there has been a disruption in the anticipated supply of pALD from the contracted manufacturer, Cipla. As a result, the planned rollout has been placed on hold pending availability of stock. Timelines for stock availability are still under investigation and will be communicated to relevant stakeholders once confirmed. Accordingly, pALD is currently not available on the ARV tender (HP13-2025ARV) for general procurement.

In the interim, healthcare workers are advised to continue prescribing the dual abacavir/lamivudine formulation in combination with single-agent dolutegravir, in accordance with current guidelines (see Table 1). The current paediatric products available on tender are shown in Table 2 below.

Table 1: Treatment guidelines for children with current paediatric products available on tender¹

Weight band (Kg)	Option 1 Co-formulations	Option 2 Single agents
2-2.9 3 – 5.9	½ x ABC/3TC 120/60mg daily PLUS ½ x DTG 10mg daily	- 3ml ABC 20mg/ml twice daily OR 1 x 60mg twice daily PLUS 3ml 3TC 10mg/ml twice daily PLUS ½ x DTG 10mg daily
6 – 9.9	½ x ABC/3TC 120/60mg daily	4ml ABC 20mg/ml twice daily OR 1½ x ABC 60mg twice daily PLUS 4ml 3TC 10m/ml twice daily PLUS 1½ x 10mg DTG daily
10 – 13.9	2 x ABC/3TC 120/60mg daily	12ml ABC 20mg/ml once daily OR 4 x ABC 60mg once daily PLUS 12ml 3TC 10m/ml once daily PLUS 2 x 10mg DTG daily
14 – 19.9	2½ x ABC/3TC 120/60mg daily	5 x ABC 60mg once daily OR 1 x ABC 300mg once daily PLUS 1 x 3TC 150mg once daily PLUS 2½ x 10mg DTG daily
20 - <24.9	1 x ABC/3TC 600/300mg PLUS 1 x DTG 50mg is the preferred regimen for this weight band	

¹ National Consolidated Guidelines for the prevention and management of HIV in adults, adolescents, children, infants and pregnant and breastfeeding women. South African National Department of Health, January 2026.

RETRACTION OF CIRCULAR REFERENCE 2026/01/19/EDP/01: AVAILABILITY OF NEW ANTIRETROVIRAL PRODUCTS:
PAEDIATRIC ABACAVIR/ LAMIVUDINE/DOLUTEGRAVIR (ABC/3TC/DTG) 60mg/30mg/5mg FIXED-DOSE COMBINATION
DISPERSIBLE TABLETS (pALD)

Table 2: Product summary of paediatric Abacavir, Lamivudine, and Dolutegravir products on tender

Product description	Cost per pack	Supplier(s)	NSN
Abacavir 60mg, Lamivudine 30mg, Dolutegravir 5mg	R53.33	Cipla	222001658
Lamivudine, Abacavir; 60mg, 120mg; Tablet; 28 Tablets	R55.36	Viartis	222001210
Dolutegravir; 10mg; Tablet, dispersible; 28 Tablets	R27.34 / R30.30	Macleods / Viartis	222001316
Dolutegravir; 50mg; tablet, scored; 30 Tablets	R25.13	Sonke	222000208

The pALD formulation was initially earmarked for children less than 20kg, therefore the unavailability of pALD should not affect children weighing more than 20kg.

Provinces and Healthcare facilities are requested to distribute and communicate this information in consultation with their Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committees. Kindly share with all healthcare professionals and relevant stakeholders.

Comments may be submitted via e-mail:

Stock queries:

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Clinical queries:

Essential Drugs Programme

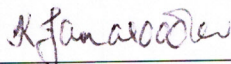
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Implementation queries:

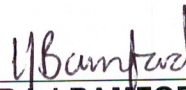
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Kind regards



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PROCUREMENT
DATE: 31/3/2026



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CHILD AND WOMEN'S HEALTH
DATE: 1/4/2026