



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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ERRATUM TO THE ADULT HOSPITAL LEVEL (AHL) CHAPTER 2: BLOOD AND BLOOD FORMING ORGANS IN THE STANDARD TREATMENT GUIDELINES (STGs) AND ESSENTIAL MEDICINE LIST (EML)

Please note the following correction to the Adult Hospital Level (AHL) Chapter 2: Blood and Blood Forming Organs. This amendment will be reflected in the updated edition of the AHL 2024, 6th Edition once published.

For the AHL Chapter 2, the recommended methylprednisolone ester for intravenous injection in the management of Acute Immune Thrombocytopenia has been corrected to **methylprednisolone succinate**. Please note that methylprednisolone acetate is contraindicated for intravenous administration¹ and is only recommended in the STGs for intra-articular use in osteoarthritis.

Methylprednisolone succinate injection, which is recommended for intravenous administration, was not awarded on the HP06-2024SVP/03 tender, which commenced on 01 May 2024, and is therefore currently being procured through quotation.

The STG has been amended as indicated below:

2.5 IMMUNE THROMBOCYTOPENIA (ITP)

Acute life-threatening bleeding and surgery

- Platelet transfusion, intravenous, 1 unit immediately.
 - Platelet transfusions are only indicated in acute active bleeding uncontrolled by other means or before procedures.
 - In an adult, 1 unit of platelets (preferably single donor, leucocyte depleted) is usually sufficient to control the bleeding initially.
 - Platelet transfusions have limited benefit in this condition as platelets are rapidly destroyed by the immune system.
- Methylprednisolone ~~acetate~~ succinate 1 g, IV, daily for 3 days.

Erratum dissemination

Provinces and Healthcare facilities are requested to distribute and communicate this information to all relevant stakeholders, in consultation with the Pharmaceutical and Therapeutics Committees.

The most recent updates to the individual chapters are accessible on the National Department of Health NHI web page (<https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-eml/>) as follows:

- Adult Hospital Level (AHL) Chapter 2: Blood and Blood Forming Organs (version 1.0 updated 30 March 2026).

Kind regards

MS K JAMALOODIEN

CHIEF DIRECTOR: SECTOR WIDE PROCUREMENT

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¹ Depo-Medrol. Professional Information. Pfizer Laboratories (Pty)Ltd.29 June 2023