



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



AMD Circular No. 02 of 2026

NOTICE: MANAGING MEDICINE SUPPLY CONSTRAINTS | DISPENSING FOR THE HOLIDAY PERIOD

The medicines supply chain is currently experiencing constraints affecting a number of medicines used in the management of chronic non-communicable diseases. The National Department of Health recognises the significant challenges this places on healthcare professionals involved in prescribing, procuring, dispensing and managing patient treatment.

As we approach the holiday period, many facilities are preparing to provide patients with multiple months' supplies of chronic medicines to ensure continuity of care. While we fully appreciate the importance of this practice, we ask that healthcare providers carefully consider the current supply environment when making decisions regarding dispensing and prescribing quantities for more than a month at a time.

Where medicine availability is limited, it may not be possible to continue with routine multi-month dispensing practices without placing additional pressure on existing stocks. We therefore encourage careful use of available supplies and consideration of local stock levels when determining the quantity of medicines to prescribe or dispense. Providers are reminded to ensure that prescribing and dispensing practices align with the updated Standard Treatment Guidelines and Essential Medicines List available online at <https://www.health.gov.za/nhi-edp-stgs-eml/>

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

Comments may be submitted via email:

Stock queries:

Contract Management Unit

E-mail: stockalert@health.gov.za

Clinical queries:

Essential Drug Programme

Email: SAEDP@health.gov.za

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